

# Schools must teach children character and values, a new poll shows

September 3 2013

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More than eight out of ten parents believe schools should teach children character and values alongside academic study, a new survey has found.

[A Populus poll of 1,001 parents](#), carried out for The Jubilee Centre for Character and Values, based in the University of Birmingham, found overwhelming public support for schools delivering character education.

The survey revealed that:

- 87% of parents said schools should focus on character development and academic study, not simply academic study alone
- 81% of parents wanted schools to have a core statement of the values that schools instilled in their pupils
- 84% of parents said teachers should encourage good morals and values in pupils

Professor James Arthur, Director of the Jubilee Centre for Character and Values, said: "There is a strong belief among parents that schools should promote character alongside academic study. Parents want teachers to set a moral example and they want schools to teach character.

"Many schools don't know how to teach character. They might have a statement of values but too often they are bland paragraphs that have little impact on what goes on in the classroom

"The Jubilee Centre has produced a rigorous, evidence-based and philosophically-sound framework for character education that is designed to help heads and teachers introduce effective character education in their schools. This will enable them to meet [parents'](#) expectations ensure students are able to develop their [character strengths](#) as much as their [intellectual abilities](#)."

David Carr, one of the Centre's educational philosophers said the poll finding came as no surprise.

"The importance of encouraging children to be honest, tolerant and fair is clear for although not all [children](#) will develop an interest in or a need for science, for example, all human beings require an interest in honesty or fairness."

Provided by University of Birmingham

Citation: Schools must teach children character and values, a new poll shows (2013, September 3) retrieved 23 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2013-09-schools-children-character-values-poll.html>

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