

THE SELF, VIRTUE & PUBLIC LIFE



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Personal Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance: From Values to Virtues

Dear Parent,

Your child(ren)'s school has been chosen to take part in a landmark new study, funded by the Templeton Foundation's 'Self, Virtue and Public Life' call. The research looks at the ways that schools teach about the kinds of values that are said to make someone a good citizen, such as showing tolerance of others, having self-control, and being respectful. We want to find out what values mean in practice, and where they fit into the lived experience of day-to-day school life.

A researcher will visit the school for a week in the December term, to take field notes about various staff-supervised activities, including lessons, after-school clubs and assemblies. The researcher has been DBS checked, and will not be left unsupervised with your child. No individual children will be interviewed or identified at this stage of the research.

We hope that this research will help schools to think about what it means to live out their values and how they could do this better. The study has also attracted interest from government and various charities and other agencies which work with schools to help them develop young people's moral values.

Because we want to see classes and assemblies in their normal state, there shouldn't be any difference in your child's normal experience of a school day as a result of taking part in this research. However, if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, at the address above or at lundied@hope.ac.uk or to raise your concerns with the Headteacher or your child's class teacher.

Later in the project, we will be looking for some young people to take part in a smartphone enabled daily diary task, focus groups and surveys. We will provide more details on these nearer the time, and no child will be asked to participate in any of these activities without fully informed consent from both child and parent.

I am very happy to talk with you or your child, and to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Lundie".

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