

# THE SIX PILLARS OF CHARACTER EDUCATION

## **respect** *(Yellow or Gold like The Golden Rule)*

Follow the Golden Rule: "Treat others the way you want to be treated" • Accept differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements • Be polite • Honor age and authority • Be kind

## **trustworthiness** *(Blue- Like "True Blue")*

Be honest • Don't lie, cheat or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country • Keep your promises • Do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be on time • Admit when you have done something wrong

## **caring** *(Red- Like a Heart)*

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need • Listen to others • Say something nice to others

## **responsibility** *(Green- as in being responsible for a garden or money; or in being solid and reliable as an oak tree)*

Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices • Do your chores and homework • Look after those in your care (people and animals too)

## **fairness** *( Orange- like dividing an orange into equal sections to share fairly with friends)*

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly • Wait your turn • Stand up for others • Win or lose but do it fairly

## **citizenship** *( Purple- as in the purple heart given to soldiers)*

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment • Learn how the government works

### **TRRFCC- (Terrific)**

Use this acronym to help you remember that people with good character are terrific:

**T**rustworthiness

**R**espect

**R**esponsibility

**F**airness

**C**aring

**C**itizenship

## Six Pillar Mnemonics

To help young people remember the Pillars, some educators employ these creative devices.

### **Color Scheme**

Each of the Six Pillars is associated with a certain color.

- **Trustworthiness: Blue** — like "True Blue"
- **Respect: Yellow or Gold** — like the Golden Rule
- **Responsibility: Green** — as in being responsible for a garden or finances; or as in being solid and reliable like an oak
- **Fairness: Orange** — like dividing an orange into equal sections to share fairly with friends
- **Caring: Red** — like a heart
- **Citizenship: Purple** — as in the regal purple representing the state

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