



# Character Pin Programme

JK-G3: Bronze (Primary version)

G4-G5: Bronze (Junior version)

G6-G8: Silver

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

House: \_\_\_\_\_



## CHARACTER COUNTS! PIN PROGRAMME

At Fieldstone, we truly believe that *Character Counts!*<sup>SM</sup> This programme has found that there are at least six values that should be taught to all children. These are known as the “Six Pillars of Character” and include:



The pillars (Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness, Trustworthiness and Citizenship) are enduring, universal moral truths (principles of thought and conduct) which distinguish right from wrong and define the essence of good character.

### Respect

- Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule
- Be accepting of 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

### Responsibility

- Do what you are supposed to do
- Persevere: keep on trying
- Always do your best

- Use your self-control; be self-disciplined
- Think before you act-consider the consequences
- Be accountable for your choice

### **Caring**

- Be kind
- Be compassionate and *show* you care
- Express gratitude
- Forgive others
- Help people in need

### **Fairness**

- 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

### **Trustworthiness**

- Be honest
- Don't deceive, cheat or steal
- Be reliable-do what you say you'll do
- Have the courage to do the right thing
- Build a good reputation
- Be loyal-stand by your family and friends

### **Citizenship**

- Do your share to make your school and community better
- Cooperate
- Stay informed; vote
- Be a good neighbour
- Obey laws and rules
- Respect authority
- Protect the environment

Lessons of integrity, personal responsibility, and compassion must be taught by personal example. At Fieldstone we are committed to creating an environment where it is safe to be “of good character” and where teachers support and reward good behaviour; taking advantage of those “teachable moments” with regards to character, and continuing to value being a good person above all else.

We are essentially a family, and rely on one another for personal safety, security of our belongings, personal and social growth, alongside our intellectual and academic learning and development. The character you develop makes you the person you are, and truly makes a difference with regards to your success and happiness in all areas of life. By being a person of character, we improve the lives of all members of the Fieldstone community, and make it possible to fulfill individual, classroom, school-wide and global goals.

We are not born with good character. Character is not hereditary, nor does it develop automatically. It must be consciously developed by example and required by peers, faculty, and parents. Good character is something that is developed over time through experience, maturity, thought, discussion, and most importantly – through one’s role models.

The intention of the Character Counts Pin Programme is to have students intentionally reflect on their character, and put forth a solid effort into building the foundations of what they believe to be true about themselves, their character, and the world we share with each other.

In life, good character is rewarded both with the good feelings that result by knowing we have done the right thing, as well as with recognition from others and all of the rewards that come along with that. We hope that by recognizing the importance of these pillars, students will have them brought to the forefront of their consciousness and think about how their decisions and actions ultimately develop their character and who they are.

Character truly does count at Fieldstone, at home, in our relationships with others, and in life.

### **Guidelines to Earning Pins**

Earning a character pin is a large undertaking. They are not easy to earn, and students will work on the outcomes over time. It is truly a great accomplishment to earn one to two pins per year. Earning a character pin is something to celebrate! We will celebrate such accomplishments during a Character Pin Assembly, at least twice during the school year.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade Five will work on bronze level pins, and students in Grades Six to Eight will work on silver pins.

These character pins will require a lot of effort and dedication from the students. Students will have an opportunity to work on their pins during our Morning House Meetings, and they are encouraged to work at home as well. This will ensure that students take a great deal of pride in each pin, and wear them with a sense of success.

We want to encourage each of our students to earn pins. Therefore, students in Kindergarten and Grade One can have teacher or parent help with scribing or typing written work, and students in Grades Two and Three may have teacher or parent assistance outlining written work.

We hope that all students strive toward earning these character pins, and wish each the best of luck in their pursuit!

### ***Which character pin do you want to earn this school year?\****

**Trustworthiness**

**Respect**

**Responsibility**

**Fairness**

**Caring**

**Citizenship**

***\*Students in JK to Grade Five: once you have earned all six Bronze Character Pins (primary and/or junior level), you will start working on earning Silver Character Pins even if you aren't in Grade Six yet.***

CHARACTER COUNTS! is a service mark of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.  
[www.charactercounts.org](http://www.charactercounts.org)