



“encompasses a sense of equality, fairness, justice and a desire to do what is right for the greater good”





A spirit of democracy embraces a sense of equality, fairness, justice and a desire to do what is right (for the greater good). Freedom of thought and speech are valued and appropriate forums and channels of communication are discovered and explored.

An understanding of the importance of active democratic participation and the power of collective decision-making is supported by a strong sense of self-discipline and personal responsibility. Respect for diversity, cultural difference and heritage lead to an outspoken passion for equality, tolerance and inclusion.

Knowledge of civil rights and the ability to understand how society works, on a small scale (such as a school, family or a sports club) and on a larger scale -- in one's neighbourhood, city, nation and internationally, enables participation and action, and builds capacity to make a difference.

A person living out a spirit of democracy seeks to be well informed about her or his world and has an outward-looking disposition, engaging with the issues of the day, valuing the opportunity to be involved in making his or her society a better place, and expressing a sense of public duty. Understanding the needs of others and feeling empathy for them becomes a catalyst for action and prompts engagement in social service activity. A spirit of democracy also encompasses the development and application of appropriate social skills to interact respectfully with others in order to contribute as a positive and active member of the community.



THE ROUND SQUARE DISCOVERIES IN THE CONTEXT OF DEMOCRACY		© 2017 Round Square
Communication Skills 	Round Square Explorers value freedom of thought and speech. They are ready to use communication skills in context to explore and understand issues and causes that they believe in, and are equipped and prepared to develop and justify their own informed opinions and voice, so that they can engage in respectful discourse with those of a different opinion.	
Inquisitiveness 	Round Square Explorers test boundaries, persistently question, challenge assumptions, and maintain a healthy scepticism in the absence of evidence. They are prepared to consider multiple points of view, and to seek but not find, appreciating that there may not be a single <i>right</i> answer.	
Appreciation of Diversity 	Round Square Explorers actively and passionately tackle discrimination and prejudice whenever they encounter it. They are equipped and willing to challenge obstacles that deny anyone an equal opportunity to make a contribution and be valued.	
Ability to solve problems 	Round Square Explorers are prepared to work democratically in a team to tackle a challenge or problem. Exercising their freedom to test, research and question, they explore an issue from a range of perspectives before analysing and evaluating their discoveries to reach an informed solution(s).	
Sense of responsibility 	Round Square Explorers readily accept, and rise to, a sense of civic and personal duty. They uphold the principles of democracy, take responsibility for their actions, are ready to participate in democratic process, and prepared to make informed interventions when they encounter injustice, oppression, alienation or marginalisation.	
Self-awareness 	Round Square Explorers are conscious of their own personal values, beliefs, biases, culture, heritage virtues and character strengths. In the context of citizenship, they begin to understand how these influence their interactions in society, how they can be limiting, but also how they can be put to good use.	
Tenacity 	Round Square Explorers persevere in tackling social injustice and making their voices heard. They persist in empowering and supporting others in the face of challenge, or oppression, and respond to a set-back with the determination to try again.	
Courage 	Round Square Explorers develop their capacity to advocate for social justice and speak up for their beliefs, with a preparedness to confront fear, uncertainty, or intimidation in support of their wider communities. Their moral courage enables them to act according to conscience in the face of opposition, shame, scandal, or discouragement.	
Commitment to sustainability 	Round Square Explorers understand the need to engage in a collective effort to positively manage energy sources, water, waste, food, and pollution for the benefit of current and future generations. A commitment to positive citizenship encourages them to repair, reuse and recycle, using natural resources locally, responsibly, and ethically.	
Teamwork 	Round Square Explorers make individual, selfless contributions to the success of the teams they participate in. They understand that positive teamwork is built on democratic principles and find that respect, equality, mutual co-operation, persuasion and good communication are contributing factors.	
Inventiveness 	Round Square Explorers find creative ways to go beyond the limitations of the traditional democratic process and ensure that everyone's voice is heard. They invite and create opportunity for wider involvement in their own endeavours, and seek to contribute new ideas to the endeavours of others through a mutually supportive exchange.	
Compassion 	Round Square Explorers recognise and value the political, social and cultural freedom that democracy can create and demonstrate empathy with those that do not have such freedoms. They share a commitment to basic Human Rights for all and are moved to take appropriate positive action when they encounter the denial of those rights.	