



WINNING WITH CHARACTER

How you behave when you win anything tells other people a lot about you and your character. There is nothing wrong with winning because it gives a great sense of satisfaction and helps to bring out and then extend all the gifts and abilities inside us. Winning builds up our confidence and helps us to stretch ourselves for bigger and better things. But learning how to win is a lesson that not too many people want to learn.

Think!

What have you enjoyed winning most recently?

Why was that?

Some people don't know how to win properly (as God intended). They cheat their way to victory, bend the rules to suit themselves or show no concern for the person or the team that have just lost. These people think they are winners but it might be that they are really losers.

Think!

What kind of winner are you?

Can you think of a 'bad' win you might have had?

To win with character is to have tried your best against opponents you appreciate and you have given all you've got to the game in an honest and open way. It is about not boasting but rather going on to recognise the part others have played to make it a good game. After all, you can only win if someone else loses. Think about ways you can encourage those who didn't win this time.

The Bible has some good points to make about this – 'don't push your way to the front, don't sweet talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand' Philippians 2: 3-5: 'The Message' translation.

Think!

What is your next competition? – netball, rugby, chess, getting dressed first, being the player of the match, paying most attention in class, etc

How do you need to behave if you win?

Did you see any signs of 'winning with character' in the last 'Higher Sports' session?

To be the best you can be in sport or in life you need to use your ability to the full at the same time as realising that there is more to life than winning. To be able to win with humility is perhaps one of the hardest things for a sportsman or woman but one of the most fulfilling things they can do. Enjoy the moment but always remember those around you and be ready to 'lend a helping hand'.

