



Dr. Harrison is a Reader in Character Education Pedagogy and Practice and Director of Education - Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at the University of Birmingham. His specialist interests are character education and virtue ethics, character, wisdom and the Internet, youth social action and citizenship education.

He was one of the invited speakers to the 20th World Congress of IFFD in October 2019, with more than 1,000 delegates. During his presentation, he advanced some of the ideas in the book he was writing at the time. Now that book, entitled 'THRIVE; How to Cultivate Character So Your Children Can Flourish Online', has been published. In it he explains how parents and families can develop character and what he calls cyber-wisdom in their children. He talks about his experience of bringing up his children in the digital world in the UK.

However, because the technologies and software are somewhat universal and global, many of the messages are applicable for parents around the world. The book is a source of advice and inspiration for any parents asking big questions. His core message is that we cannot wait for Big Tech or policy makers to get their acts together (although we must not let them off the hook) – instead we must seek to cultivate values, qualities and skills in our children that make it more likely they will do the 'right' thing when interacting online. He also shows you how you might do this through two models (REACT and THRIVE) which he first unveiled during his IFFD Congress presentation.

Therefore, the International Board of IFFD has decided to grant one of the 2021 IFFD Awards to Dr. Tom Harrison for the publication of "The THRIVE Model - How to cultivate Character so that children can flourish online", as the first practical book of its kind to show parents and teachers how to develop character as the foundation for helping young people to thrive in their online interactions.

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