

## The Stapleford Centre

### Ethos and Values Statement

***The Stapleford Centre exists to be a transforming Christian influence in education***

Working together, we seek to extend the Kingdom of God on earth by living out a lifestyle of love, truth, justice, mercy and forgiveness, according to the teaching of Jesus. We are inspired by his message, life and example through which God's unconditional love for all people is expressed.

Our ethos is given life through our relationships. The way we work together and behave with one another and those we seek to serve demonstrate and authenticate our ethos. It is through these relationships, with each other and those whom we seek to serve, that we practise our ethos.

Our motivation, and therefore our relationships, are rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ and in his love, which compels us to serve others. This faith directs and influences our internal relationships as well as our work with those who The Stapleford Centre is seeking to serve. Our activities are an outworking of our faith. The link between who we are and what we do cannot be broken.

#### **Our Aim**

The Stapleford Centre aims to be a transforming Christian influence in Education

This will be achieved through:

The provision of professional and pastoral support and advice to Christian teachers, school leaders and those working within the professional education sector.

The creation and publication of resources to support the teaching of the Christian faith with Religious Education, PSHE and Citizenship.

The initiation, promotion and dissemination of distinctive Christian thinking about current educational issues.

## **The Values of The Stapleford Centre**

As a Christian organisation and employer The Stapleford Centre has a shared set of values that inform the way it operates as a business and the work it undertakes on behalf of Christian teachers across the country.

These values include:

### **• Integrity**

We believe that our mission and purpose, to extend the Kingdom of God on earth – is indissolubly linked with how we operate internally. The values, which we promote for ourselves as an organisation, should be matched by those that we practice when relating to others. The link between who we are and what we do cannot be broken.

### **• Authenticity**

The Stapleford Centre believes that its purpose - to be a transforming Christian influence in education- flows out of a shared desire to be followers and servants of Jesus Christ. The love and care with which we serve others should be authenticated by the same love and care which we have for each other.

### **• Transparency**

We believe that we should be open and transparent about our beliefs and the link between our beliefs and our mission in matters of publicity, fundraising, employment etc.

### **• Accountability**

We believe that all we have comes from God and that we should exercise wisdom, integrity and responsibility in using the resources entrusted to us.

### **• United effort by Christians**

We are committed to maintaining our distinctively Christian ethos by ensuring that Christians - as volunteers and staff - are appointed to those positions, which we have agreed, require Christians to fill them.

### **• Diversity**

We believe that we have a duty to maintain our Christian distinctiveness by recruiting to appropriate posts those who are committed to Christ's teaching about the Kingdom of God. However, at the same time we want to embrace the values of inclusivity and diversity by welcoming and involving, where appropriate, those of other faiths and those of none.

- **Servant leadership**

We believe in working in partnership with other Christian organisations, churches and voluntary and statutory agencies. In particular, we seek to encourage, serve and build up other bodies working within the professional education sector, recognising their role within local communities, and wider diocesan and national education structures.

## **Values about people**

- **Equality**

We affirm the God-given value of each person and believe in the equal value of all. We stand for respect and freedom for everyone and tolerance and understanding between people of different opinions.

- **Discipleship**

We believe that as we serve others we learn as much about ourselves and our relationship with God as do about the work.

- **Well-being**

We believe that God created people in His image, to be whole human beings and to flourish. We believe that well being should characterise our lives as volunteers and staff and wherever else we belong and participate.

- **Transformation**

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to develop and change, realising their potential and thus making a full contribution to the organisation and to wider communities. We believe that as we grow and change, not only are we transformed but also the world around us is also transformed. We believe that everyone is a learner and should be encouraged, supported and challenged to become who he or she has the potential to be. Learning who we are in God is as important as learning how to do the job.

## **Values about the way we work**

### **• Commitment to each other**

We believe that a tolerant society is one in which people of different opinions can live together in peace. In working together to deliver the work of the Stapleford Centre we want to endeavour at all times to trust one another, being patient and forbearing. We should work at paying attention to the way we speak to one another, attempting to listen well, even when it is uncomfortable to do so, being able to confront difficulties carefully and with compassion.

### **• Interdependence**

We believe that each person has his or her own part to play and contribution to make to the whole. We believe that every opportunity should be taken to exchange views so that we can improve our understanding of ourselves and of one another and of the work we do.

### **• Community**

We believe that a healthy community is one to which people feel that they belong. We are committed to the same way of life where volunteers and staff experience a sense of belonging to and identity with The Stapleford Centre. We believe that successful delivery of our mission happens when people feel they belong and have a role, where inclusive community and a family atmosphere are fostered.