

Ethos Statement

The ethos of Youth for Christ emerges from the Youth for Christ Statement of Faith and from a desire and motivation to express God's love to those outside the organisation and to reflect this love internally in our relationships with one another. We express God's love to those outside Youth for Christ by obeying Christ's mandate in Mathew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8. These mandates were given by Jesus to his disciples and from these we take our mission.

And Jesus came and said to them "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:18-20

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"

ACTS 1:8

The motivation of most of those who work in Youth for Christ comes from and flows out of the context of Christian faith and is seen as an expression of that faith. See also the Youth for Christ Statement of Faith.

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

- States that God is the sole creator
- Determines that each individual is uniquely made in the image of God although is also fallen.
- Declares that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to save humankind from sin.
- Provides for a relationship with the living God in the person of Jesus Christ that defines what being a Christian means
- Equips the Christian to live life through the power of the Holy Spirit and grow in holiness.

THE CHRISTIAN EXPRESSION OF FAITH

- Honours, obeys and glorifies God, acknowledging God's sovereignty.
- Nourishes the spiritual life and is fully committed to developing it.
- Believes that no one is beyond the redeeming love of the Saviour, Jesus Christ and this love reaches out to people of all nations, cultures and ethnicities.
- Knows God through the person of Jesus and seeks to follow his way of life, modelling love, justice, peace and forgiveness in attitudes and behaviours.
- Embraces the power of the Holy Spirit as the source of strength for living.

As we see in Colossians chapter 3 the Christians motivation to express the love of Christ in his/her life affects not just the nature of the work he/she is involved in but in the way he/she behaves and relates to others. This should lead to a vocational and relational lifestyle characterised and driven by faith in God, touching the lives of others through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The motivation for our mission comes from Christ's love compelling believers (2 Cor.5:14) and is therefore rooted in our faith in Christ. This faith produces a distinctive heart attitude of love, which expresses and is characterised by the following values and behaviour.

CORE VALUES

Dignity	Every individual, group or community is created unique and bears the imprint of God. Therefore all relationships within and outside Youth for Christ should be characterised by love, compassion and wholehearted respect for the individual, group or community.
Empowerment	Increasing the capacity of individuals and groups to make choices and to transform those choices into positive actions and outcomes. Increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic growth of individuals and communities. Offering opportunities for experience and participation which leads to learning and growth for young people, volunteers, trustees, staff members and linked partners.
Partnership	Actively seeking positive opportunity for partnership with other bodies, forming trusting relationships that fulfil agreed upon expectations by sharing complementary strengths and resources to reach our mutual goals.
Innovation	Continually pioneering new ways of fulfilling our mission, being prepared to experiment with the new and different as we operate and minister, ensuring a fresh and creative approach to reaching young people relevantly. Meeting the needs of young people and presenting opportunities for exploration of the gospel message.

CORE BEHAVIOURS

Inclusivity	Facilitating a sense of belonging to the corporate whole.
Integrity	Youth for Christ and individual staff would be true to our values in how we operate internally as well as externally. The values which we promote for ourselves as Youth for Christ should be matched by those which we practice when relating to others.

As this attitude and motivation come only from a relationship with Christ, it becomes an occupational requirement that many of our staff are committed Christians who assent to our statement of faith. Roles that have significant leadership or representational responsibilities, or that are central to fulfilling our aims and purposes or developing and maintaining our Christian ethos, will always be held by committed evangelical Christians.

There are other roles that have key spiritual elements to them, that can only be carried out by those who are committed to a living faith in God.

There are some posts which do not require someone to have an expressed Christian commitment, but it is expected that every member of staff will respect and uphold all areas expressed in this policy.

Youth for Christ recognise that it is essential that these attitudes and behaviours continue in Youth for Christ and mark our work. We expect our staff to act in good faith and with loyalty to that relational ethos.

Notwithstanding this, Youth for Christ is committed to diversity amongst its staff and volunteers and will not discriminate on grounds that are unrelated to our ethos.

The Burton Youth for Christ Framework

Here at Burton Youth for Christ we're passionate about helping young people develop and reach their full potential. Motivated by our faith in a God who has reached out to us, we aim to reach out to young people with this same love, enabling them to understand the gospel of Christ in a relevant way. Of course, spiritual development is intrinsically woven into a whole person— so we also look to meet the needs of young people socially, physically and emotionally. Our vision is therefore a long term one.

IDENTIFICATION

building relationships with those we're working with and standing in their shoes. This can take time and lots of shared experiences. Cultivating trust can be a delicate and time consuming process. In our view, it's an investment worth making. Jesus is a great example for us to follow!

REVELATION

Understanding of particular needs surface and we share in the pain of a situation—whether witnessing a display of disruptive behaviour, listening to a confession of self-doubt or recognising a lack of opportunity for growth.

The time invested and the trust earned through the above process gives us the “authority to act.” This may be to instigate a change, begin a new work or offer to pray for someone. It may be that we need to pass it over to another group or work in partnership with others.

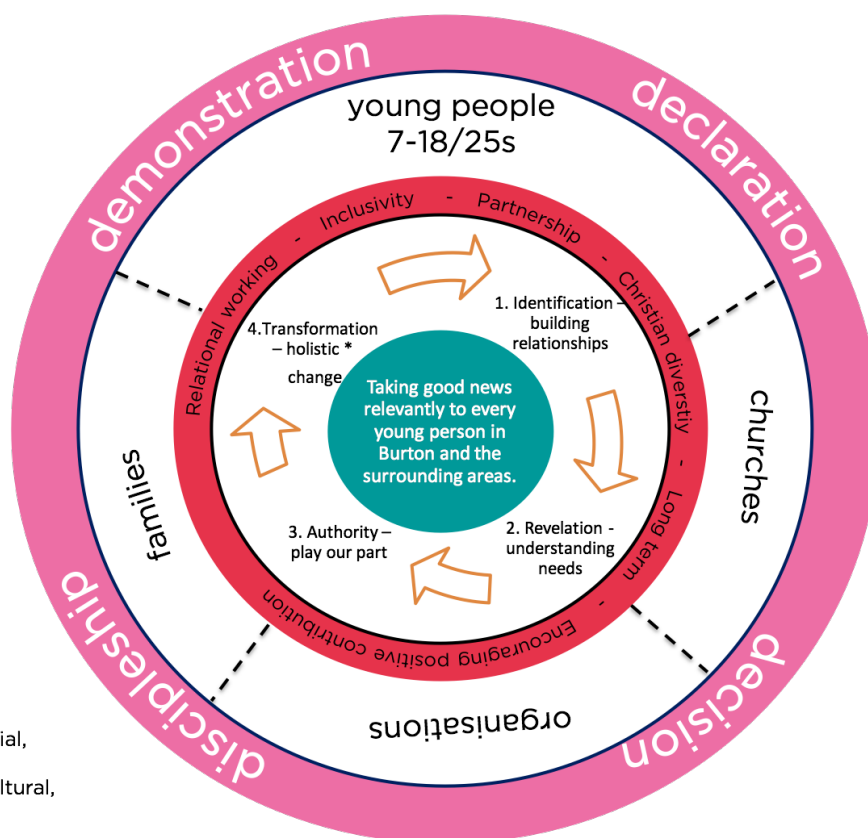
TRANSFORMATION

We want what we do to make a difference to young people, their families and their communities. Change may happen for an individual as their confidence increases, positively affecting their life choices; or for a community as attitudes to one another grow in understanding and streets become safer. Ultimately, we long for them to know Christ and the vastness of His love for them.

This is an ongoing process represented by the circle shape of the lens diagram on the following page.

This is not a new idea, God sent His Son to earth to identify with us. In becoming human He felt as we feel; He knew suffering and joy. His death on the cross gives Him ultimate authority to act and knowing Him leads to personal transformation. We pray that Burton Youth for Christ can play our part and help others to experience the fullness of life that only Jesus can bring.

BURTON YOUTH FOR CHRIST FRAMEWORK LENS



**Holistic* = Social,
physical,
Intellectual, Cultural,
Emotional and
Spiritual.