



## **BELPER SCHOOL - OUR ETHOS**

The ethos of a school can be defined as the core values which are fundamental to everything it does as a learning community. These values should both permeate the day-to-day operation and set the context for future planning and strategy. At Belper School we have a well established, student-centered ethos of which we are proud. It has ensured that generations of young people have enjoyed a highly positive and successful educational experience. It will also ensure that our current and future students can be encouraged to achieve their very best. Our core values have been tried and tested over time and we believe in them passionately.

### **Belper School :**

- **values everyone equally regardless of ability or background**
- **puts good relationships at the heart of all it does**
- **ensures that excellent teaching and learning is our core activity**
- **sets high expectations in a supportive and caring atmosphere**
- **promotes self-reliance and personal development**
- **focuses on hard work, achievement and excellence**
- **conducts rigorous evaluation to ensure continuous improvement**

This ethos translates into some distinctive features. We describe all our pupils as students and they use the first names of all staff as the norm. Although there is a very basic dress code we have no formal school uniform. Our expectations of our students' behaviour are high because we place our trust in them to behave responsibly. They usually respond well and we achieve a calm, orderly environment where learning is the prime focus. Our last Ofsted inspection praised our ethos for the way in which it supports students to become mature and responsible young citizens:

**“The personal development and well-being of students is good and is a strength of the school. Students display confidence and considerable self-assurance, indicating that they largely enjoy school and appreciate being able to contribute strongly to many aspects of school life”**

Ofsted Inspection Report (2007)



## **BELPER SCHOOL - OUR VISION STATEMENT**

### **Belper School – a centre of excellence and learning for our community**

Our overriding aim is to encourage each and every student to be the best they can in order to lead fulfilled lives as productive members of the community. In setting out our vision to meet this aim we must be highly ambitious for the school, aspirational in our goals and not afraid to embrace change and try out new ideas. We should never be complacent about our past success.

#### 1. Our vision for our students

- we will create excellent learning and extra-curricular experiences to meet students' individual needs and provide them with access to cutting edge technologies
- we will provide a broad and flexible curriculum which will offer multiple pathways for progression including academic and vocational courses
- we will challenge all students to achieve the very best they can in tests and examinations and will provide excellent welfare and guidance systems to support their progress
- we will expect students and staff to uphold the highest standards of behaviour within a culture of mutual respect
- we will encourage and celebrate the superb range of achievements with which our students present us year on year
- we will develop the site, the buildings and our resources to the best specification we can to meet the curriculum and social needs of the students

#### 2. Our vision for our staff

- we will create a highly professional workforce who are both challenged and supported to work to excellent standards at all times
- we will ensure that all posts and the roles of all staff focus directly or indirectly on raising standards
- we will use more support staff in creative ways in order to reduce bureaucracy and to free teachers to teach
- we will provide excellent professional development and bespoke career development opportunities for all staff
- we will develop all leaders at whatever level in the school so that they are able to inspire their colleagues to give of their very best

- we will create the best working conditions that we can and ensure that our colleagues feel valued and supported

### 3. Our vision for our parents

- we will provide our parents with high quality information, reports and feedback about their childrens' progress and productive opportunities for face-to-face consultations
- we will encourage the active involvement of our parents via a programme of meetings, parents' forums, and social events
- we will use well presented printed communication and develop ICT and other technologies to enhance our partnership with parents and to seek their views

### 4. Our position as a school locally, nationally and internationally

- we will actively promote our achievements as a highly successful school to all stakeholders and to the community at large
- we will engage in prestigious national and international initiatives which will benefit the school and we will seek relevant national awards and quality marks
- we will develop collaborative links with our LEA, the DfES, other schools, colleges, universities and educational organisations
- we will establish excellent links with the community and extend our contacts with business in order to enhance our provision
- we will seek appropriate sources of additional revenue, funding or sponsorship through these wider links



## **BELPER SCHOOL – A SUMMARY OF OUR ETHOS AND VISION**

### **OUR ETHOS**

Belper School :

- values everyone regardless of ability or background
- puts good relationships at the heart of all it does
- ensures that excellent teaching and learning is our core activity
- sets high expectations in a supportive and caring atmosphere
- promotes self-reliance and personal development
- focuses on hard work, achievement and excellence
- conducts rigorous evaluation to ensure continuous improvement

**OUR VISION : to promote excellence in all spheres of the school's work**

**For our students we will :**

- create new and high quality learning experiences
- challenge and support every student to excel
- expect the highest standards of behaviour
- celebrate the wide range of our students' achievement
- improve significantly our accommodation and resources

**For our staff we will :**

- develop further the skills of the whole workforce
- ensure that all roles contribute to raising standards
- provide excellent professional development opportunities
- improve further the leadership skills of our staff
- create a good and supportive working environment

**For our parents we will :**

- enhance our feedback about student progress
- develop additional ways of involving parents with the school
- improve the quality of our home-school communication

**For our school in the wider community we will :**

- promote the school's achievements to all stakeholders
- engage in local, national and international initiatives
- develop further beneficial links with other institutions