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The Five Principles of Youth Work

These principles are not just theories they are the actions we take every day to help young people grow. They are how we show up, how we engage, and how we create spaces where young people feel heard, respected, and empowered.

These principles guide us to work with **integrity**, **inclusivity**, and **care**. They are the **foundation** of building meaningful relationships and making sure young people have the chance to thrive on their **own terms**.

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1 Participation and Empowerment

Young people are empowered to make their own choices, have their voices heard, and take an active role in shaping their learning, development, and engagement within their community and society.

They feel **valued**, **supported**, and **truly listened to** at every step, creating a strong sense of ownership and agency in their journey and making change.

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2 Voluntary Relationships and Engagement

Young people choose to be part of youth work, and our role is to create an environment that encourages their participation and makes them feel welcome, respected, and valued.

By respecting their **autonomy** and giving them the **freedom to choose**, stronger connections and relationships are built, which encourages meaningful engagement

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Non-formal Education and Informal Learning

Youth work offers learning through real-life experiences and meaningful conversations, helping young people build skills, confidence, and self-awareness in a relaxed, informal setting.

This approach nurtures **growth beyond traditional education**, supporting development in a way that feels **natural** and **accessible**.

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Professionalism and integrity

Youth work adheres to ethical standards, policies, and legislation that uphold our integrity and respect.

By doing so, we create **safe**, **trusting** environments where young people can grow, knowing they are supported with professionalism and consistency in every interaction.

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Equity, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging

Youth work ensures equal opportunities for all young people by actively challenging discrimination and creating an environment where everyone feels respected, valued, celebrated and included, regardless of their background.

Our commitment to diversity and belonging creates a community where young people thrive **without barriers.**