TEACHER EDUCATION: CHARACTER, ETHICS AND THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PRE- AND IN-SERVICE TEACHERS

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project will enable deeper exploration of the very important issue of how teachers are prepared and supported to meet the moral and ethical demands of their roles. It will build and expand on the Jubilee Centre’s previous work concerning character education in schools (for example, The Good Teacher; Statement on Teacher Education and Character Education; Framework for Character Education in Schools). Within this work, it is recommended that pre-service teachers are given space for critical moral and ethical reflection on practice in order to develop their moral agency; training should include academic and practical input concerning the integral role of moral virtue in education; and that staff should be trained through CPD programmes which emphasise the need for moral character throughout a teacher’s career. This project will explore these areas and aims to draw together the strands of evidenced good practice into a coherent programme that can be disseminated to a larger audience.

The research will be split into two strands, focusing on pre-service teachers in training (strand A) and teachers currently in-service (strand B). The overarching questions for both proposed strands of research are:

◊ How do pre-service and in-service programmes of teacher training prepare teachers to educate for character and virtue in the classroom?

◊ How do we best prepare new and experienced teachers to engage with the positive character formation of their students and of their peers?

◊ What are the most effective methods for educating and supporting teachers, at various stages of their career, to effectively fulfil their roles as character educators?

◊ What are the enablers and barriers to CPD programmes placing character education at the heart of their vision and practice?

PROJECT STAFF

PROFESSOR JAMES ARTHUR
Principal Investigator
Director, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues
Deputy-Pro-Vice Chancellor for Staffing, University of Birmingham

MICHAEL FULLARD
Research Fellow, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues
m.fullard@bham.ac.uk

PAUL MICHAEL WATTS
Research Fellow, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues
p.m.watts@bham.ac.uk

For more information about the project please go to www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/teachereducation