

CHARACTER AND VALUES AMONGST MARGINALISED YOUNG PEOPLE

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The *Character and Values Amongst Marginalised Young People* project is designed to deepen understanding of why some young people appear disengaged from education, employment and society, often referred to as 'NEETs', and how paying attention to character may help to address the underlying causes of that disengagement.

The project will address the following research questions:

- How do young people in different communities understand what it means to 'flourish', and what factors influence these perceptions?
- What is the link between the development of character, moral and social identity, and disengagement from education, employment and training?
- How do socio-cultural contexts influence character development amongst marginalised young people?
- What difference might a structured intervention focusing on character make to these marginalised young people?

Initial conceptual mapping will be undertaken to review what is already known about why and how young people are marginalised, who is most likely to be marginalised, and how flourishing amongst young people is understood. Much of this work builds upon previous work in the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues in different communities. The research will involve mixed methods, including:

- A questionnaire completed by young people in different contexts (n=2000) to establish what the differences are, if any, in the perceptions, attitudes and motivations of young people in society;
- The development of a structured intervention which will be the subject of pre- and post- testing to assess impact (n= 300);
- A qualitative study of 20 young people who will co-construct their educational narratives, using a variety of media, describing how they have come to be where they are and how they envisage their futures.

This work will contribute to understanding of virtue and character amongst young people and how interventions may address some of the reasons for marginalisation amongst some young people.

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