

June 2023

## **The YMCA Federation Christian Foundation**

YMCA is built on a strong Christian foundation. That foundation is based on trust in a God of love, expressed through the life, teaching and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and aim to live this out in our actions and values.

We believe all people are made in God's image and place equal value on every individual, welcoming people of all faiths and of none. We further believe in the potential of all people, going the extra mile, doing what we say and saying what we do.

We enable people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where people can truly belong, contribute and thrive. Our vision is of an inclusive Christian movement transforming communities so that all people can belong, contribute and thrive

## **YMCA Lincolnshire Ethos Statement**

Ethos as described here is 'what we believe in and the values we live by; the motivations that drive and underpin our corporate life'. Accordingly, the Board of Lincolnshire YMCA affirms its commitment to the following principles.

YMCA Lincolnshire;

1. is a non-denominational ecumenical Christian charity whose primary purpose is to demonstrate the love of Jesus in practical ways. We are not a church, and therefore not principally involved in sacramental activity nor are we defined by specific denominational doctrine.
2. gives special emphasis to helping the poor, those experiencing financial poverty, those deprived, disadvantaged and the vulnerable. This includes those who are homeless.
3. believes that the Christian foundations brings distinctive added value to the delivery of services to individuals and communities.
4. believes that the Christian faith should influence both what we do and the way we do it.
5. seeks to inspire people to develop their potential in 'mind body and spirit'. We recognise that the spiritual journey of others may take place outside of the Christian faith, and we will work with other agencies and faith groups where an individual's needs are identified to be outside the scope of our charitable objectives.
6. works cooperatively with organisations and individuals who have different motivations, in order to achieve common social objectives.
7. strives to ensure that its services are accessible for all, irrespective of religious faith. We will encourage respect and understanding for the differing cultural and religious views of others.
8. welcomes people of all faiths and none into the staff and volunteer team who respect this ethos and uphold the Board's values. Devotion, prayer and acts of worship may take place from time to time in YMCA gatherings. While respecting such activity, staff from other faiths and none may choose to not actively participate.
9. provides appropriate opportunities for people to develop their understanding of the Christian faith and its ability to transform personal and organisational motivations.
10. believes every person should be able to develop their full potential in body, mind and spirit, everyone should have someone they can trust, every person should be able to fulfil their potential, every family should have the support they need to develop and lead more fulfilling lives and every person should have a safe place to stay.