

## **The Portal Ethos and Culture**

**The Portal is open to children and young people in Norfolk aged four to eighteen.**

**The Portal will be meticulously child - centred. Children and young people will be empowered through the development of safe relationships to own their learning and given the necessary protection, guidance and support. There will be individual Living and Learning Plans which will be co-produced by each child's and young person's thoughts, feelings and needs. These Plans will be informed for each child and young person by exploration into 'where have I come from?', 'where do I want to be in the future?' and 'where do I want and need to be now'.**

**The Portal will be values-driven. Every person attached to The Portal will be expected to maintain tenets of respect, growth, fairness, change for growth and freedom of thought. There will be a rigorously active engagement of parents, carers and where appropriate their extended families. Adults involved in The Portal will encourage children and young people to explore the world and take calculated risks; as it is often by making mistakes that we learn and understand. Children and young people will be Full Members of the Community Business Society, and have the same voting rights as any adult. The Children's and Young People's Committee will have elected representatives on the Council, which is the ultimate decision making body of The Portal. The Portal will thus be a fully democratic organisation.**

**The Portal's approach will be informed by the age, aptitude and ability of individual children and young people, and include vertical age-grouping. There will be continual assessment of emotional, physical, academic and spiritual growth to ensure good progress is made in every area for each child and young person. Everyone involved in The Portal will share in mutual learning, observation, and recording so that all will benefit from this virtuous circle of reflective practice. We will encourage all to share and experience others' knowledge, beliefs and feelings. Through support, advocacy and empowerment the whole person - heart, soul, mind and body - will be nurtured in an holistic, first-hand, experiential learning environment.**

**The overriding motto for all who engage with The Portal is: Learn to live. Live to learn.**