



## Moral Purpose

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Learning is at the heart of what schools are about...Ultimately, the goal must be to ensure that every student's learning, development and experience is of the highest quality, to enable all young people to flourish, both in today's society and in an uncertain future. That is the moral purpose **(Stoll, 2004, p.3)**.

Schools, school systems, and educational change advocates cannot be indifferent to or evasive about just what the moral purpose of educators should be. From the standpoint of sustainability, the heart of that purpose ought to be learning – something that is itself sustaining – and not just any learning, but learning that matters, spreads, and lasts a lifetime **( Hargreaves & Fink, 2006:27)**.

Why I do what I do? **(Davies, 2006)**.

Character is that which reveals moral purpose, exposing the class of things a man chooses and avoids **(Aristotle)**.

Footprints on the sands of time are not made by sitting down **(Unknown)**.

Too many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are **(Malcolm Forbes)**.

The glue that holds all relationships together --including the relationship between the leader and the led is trust, and trust is based on integrity **(Brian Tracy)**.

Good leaders make people feel that they're at the very heart of things, not at the periphery. Everyone feels that he or she makes a difference to the success of the organization. When that happens people feel centered and that gives their work meaning **(Warren G. Bennis)**

A good leader is not the person who does things right, but the person who finds the right things to do **(Anthony Dadavano)**.

## Moral Purpose – Writing Activity

Write a personal statement trying to express what is at the heart of your life as a school leader. Consider the following questions (choose one or more to guide your writing). Share your statement with a partner and discuss.

1. Why did I become a teacher?
2. What do I stand for as an educator?
3. What are the gifts that I bring to my work as a leader?
4. What do I want my legacy as a leader to be?
5. What can I do to keep track of myself – to remember my own heart?

Adapted from Michael Fullan – Education in Motion Workshop Series 2006