



Caring Education

## Our Christian Ethos

### OUR VISION

#### Changing the Lives of Young People through Caring Education

To equip our pupils, many of whom have struggled with schooling, to live life successfully, in all its fullness. To help them access lifelong learning by providing excellent education. VLC's unique calm and therapeutic approach to education is centred around our Christian faith.

#### The Christian nature of VLC

VLC seeks to be a place where all pupils and staff are welcomed, valued and treated with respect. VLC does not seek to proselytise, but will be open to respond to pupils (outside of learning time) if they seek to develop their own understanding of the meaning and significance of faith.

We, at VLC, believe that we are all created in the image of God and are of unique value. We are inclusive and non-selective. We affirm the importance of each pupil with due regard to their social, ethnic and linguistic background, gender, sexuality, religion, various gifts, needs and abilities and will actively combat discrimination. VLC seeks to create a place where all individuals are respected, supported and nurtured.

The curriculum provided is secular. PSHE and SMSC schemes have no religious bias. Our pupils benefit from our Christian ethos by experiencing our calm, therapeutic atmosphere. A safe place to learn coping strategies for life. If a pupil asks why our centres are based in church buildings, we will always say that we are a Christian School and that all staff support our Christian ethos. Pupils are not required to attend prayer times or to attend Christian services. Our values are shared with our pupils and are based around scripture. The related scriptures will not be shared openly with the students unless they ask.

## OUR VALUES

**Care** – *At VLC, we understand that my life can make a difference*

I am growing in my understanding and awareness of myself and how my actions impact others. I work to demonstrate care for myself, for those around me and for the environment through my understanding of my impact upon them.

Related Scripture:

- *Mark 12:29-31 – “Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbour as yourself.”*

**Hard Work** – *At VLC, we keep going even when things are tough*

Life can be really difficult. I’m learning to try really hard with integrity and diligence, and a knowledge of why I am doing it. If I’m finding things hard, I will talk about it and find ways to calm down.

Related Scripture:

- *Hebrews 12:1 – “Run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”*

**Respect** – *At VLC, we talk with respect*

I am learning to take responsibility for my own development, for the way I treat those around me and the way I care for the environment I live in. I am a responsible and respectful member of my school community, as well as the nation I live in and our wider world.

Related Scripture:

- *1 Peter 2:17 – “Show proper respect to everyone.”*

**Integrity** – *AT VLC, we tell the truth*

I am learning to always tell the truth and to do the right thing. I will stand up for what is right even when it is hard.

Related Scripture:

- *Psalm 25:21 – “May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you.”*

**Helping Others** – *At VLC, we look for ways to help others in our community*

I am learning that my life and my actions matter and have an effect on the way other people feel. I look for ways to help others, just as others help me. In this way I can make a positive difference in the world.

Related Scripture:

- *Mark 10:45 – “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”*

**Belonging** – *At VLC, we are stronger together*

I know that, at VLC, we are all are needed and valued and each person is important. I know my life makes a difference, and I am committed to being a positive impact on those around me and in the world.

Related Scripture:

- *Romans 12:4-5 – “Each of us has one body with many members.”*