

# Mission Statement

Student's views and rights are central to the ethos of Valence School.

Its mission is to provide a learning community where there is quality education, care, access and therapy in order to promote each student's intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

Our work is about enabling children and young people who have special physical, medical and sensory needs to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding together with the confidence, self-esteem and self dependence necessary for them to participate in and contribute to society in the way each chooses.

The School's aims are to:

1. Meet the individual needs of each student as documented in their individual Statements of Special Educational Needs.
2. Maintain and develop in students lively enquiring minds; to promote the ability to question and argue rationally; to encourage students to apply themselves to a range of tasks and skills.
3. Provide a multidisciplinary approach to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that meets individual needs with full access and accreditation.
4. Raise students' self esteem and self-confidence and create in them a sense of personal excellence enabling them to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to life in a fast-changing world.
5. Help students to develop self knowledge, spiritual and moral awareness and understanding and respect for other people's feelings, values and beliefs.
6. Help students to understand the multicultural world in which they live as citizens and the inter-dependence of individuals, groups and nations and the rights and responsibilities of living in today's Britain.

# Charter of Rights

The Charter of Rights for children and young people at Valence School is based upon the Charter of children who are in the care of Kent County Council.

Whilst children and young people are at Valence School they have the right :-

1. To reliable adults who can be trusted to care for them.
2. To be accepted for who they are – their name, their family, their religion, their race, their culture, their beliefs, their sex, their age and to be respected as a person.
3. To expect the adults caring for them to protect them from predictable and preventable harm and to stop them from hurting others.
4. To be treated as an individual and not one of a crowd. To expect the adults caring for them to behave with kindness and understanding and to be fair and honest with them.
5. To have appropriate boundaries and controls on their behaviour.
6. To an environment in which they are nurtured and given high standard care, education, therapy and other opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills and interests.
7. To have appropriate time, space and some privacy for themselves.
8. To understand why they are placed at Valence School and the aims of the placement.
9. To have a say in what happens to them and to be involved in making decisions and plans for their life, which are based on their personal circumstances and their individual needs.
10. To know how to complain if things go wrong, and to have their complaint heard and dealt with.

# Child Protection Policy Statement

The Governors and staff at the school take seriously the responsibility to promote the welfare and safeguard all young people entrusted to our care.

1. Child protection will have the highest priority within the school and we will endeavour to protect students from physical, sexual or emotional abuse and ensure that they are not neglected. In all cases the student's welfare will be the paramount consideration.
2. Child protection is established to ensure that the school organisation, its activities, staffing and procedures are aimed at providing an environment in which students feel safe, secure, valued and respected, in which their individual needs are met and where they are confident to talk openly and are sure of being listened to.
3. There are a number of associated policies, procedures and guidance that set out how we work with students to promote and safeguard their welfare.
4. A range of opportunities and levels of support will be provided to enable each student to express any fears, concerns or worries or make a disclosure and that these will be taken seriously and the child protection procedures sensitively instigated. The wishes and feelings of the student will be ascertained in an appropriate way with regard to their age, understanding and communication needs.
5. Staff will actively work to develop relationships with parents that will promote working in partnership and take into account their views. This will also allow parents to build an understanding of the school's responsibility to ensure the welfare of students, including the need for referral to other agencies in some situations.
6. There will be opportunities through the curriculum and the life-skills programme for students to increase self-awareness, self-esteem, assertiveness and decision making skills so that they are able to develop strategies to ensure their own protection and understand the importance of protecting others.
7. Training will be available to all staff so they are able to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse and are aware of the school's procedures to report any concerns or disclosures.
8. The school will maintain confidential files on individual students known to be, or suspected of being, in need of protection.
9. The school will show a commitment to inter-agency co-operation when assessing children in need or instigating child protection procedures.
10. All adults in the school have a role to play in promoting the welfare and protecting children from harm.