

OUR VISION AT LITLEDOWN SCHOOL

***'Believe You Can'***

***Littledown School provides a safe stimulating environment where children develop the skills which enable them to be included in their communities.***

***We do this by;***

***Increasing Respect and confidence***

Littledown School aims to empower pupils with self-confidence through developing their ability to respect others and themselves. This empowerment will help the pupils learn to manage their social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

***Breaking down Barriers***

We recognise that the difficulties experienced by our pupils have been barriers to their learning and emotional development. We believe that barriers can be identified and broken down.

***Raising Levels of Attainment***

We do not accept that the pupils' standards and achievements should remain at a low level. We look for high levels of progress and attainment. To do this we devise varied individual and group strategies to enable all our pupils to start remodelling their lives.

***Learning through Special Education***

Our work is through special teaching and learning programmes. They are special because they are designed or adapted especially for our pupils to help them achieve. They are what makes our school 'special'.

## ***Making Progress***

Pupils change gradually. Some of the barriers may take a longer time to identify and overcome. Developing new habits of language, behaviour, learning and relating to others is a process. We carefully monitor this process to ensure there is appropriate progress.

## ***Building on Pupils' Strengths***

We build on the pupils' existing strengths. We listen to them, their parents and carers. Other workers and all staff help to prioritise areas for development. We aim to equip all our pupils with skills to access the work and skills to adapt appropriately for further education and adult life.

## ***Working Sensitively and Honestly***

Some pupils approach school feeling bad about themselves and others. Perhaps they feel rejected or punished for failing or guilty or angry. Often they have been accused of misdemeanours and have been excluded from schools and communities. We aim to look at these issues sensitively and honestly to help pupils find their place in society, whilst developing their personal sense of well-being.

## ***Making School A Safe Place***

The School must be a safe place for everyone. Therefore we have rules and boundaries. We use sanctions and assertiveness to establish clear boundaries between right and wrong but our emphasis is on promoting individual responsibility through making right choices and accepting positive values.

## ***Leading From the Staff***

Staff recognise that they must lead by example, staff recognise the importance of managing their own emotional health and well-being. At Littledown School we are proud of our staff team. They

have many skills and work together as a strong supportive team. They have a commitment to prepare well, to evaluate carefully, to work to the best of their ability and to be part of the learning process. They are used to dealing with difficulties that young people experience and are dedicated to work alongside the pupils. They are willing to say 'this is the way. Look at how I do it, and then try it yourself'.

### ***Investing in A process of Quality***

Our procedures are carefully and rigorously followed. Our supportive approach gives pupils the language and skills to manage themselves appropriately.

### ***Supporting Each Other***

Tolerance and support of each other is valued highly at Littledown School. We encourage and direct pupils to actively help each other both socially and at work. From this grows a respect for others and readiness to support and care for each other in the community and world at large.

### ***Facing the Future***

Young people face an uncertain future in a rapidly changing world. They need to face it with confidence and the ability to adapt, to grasp new opportunities and to develop skills throughout their lives. At Littledown School we aim to prepare our pupils for continued change by teaching values, morals and beliefs, as well as spiritual and personal understanding. This knowledge, together with the skills and experiences of our special school programme will enable our pupils to face future challenges that may arise.