



Clifton Lodge

Head's Welcome (ethos)

Clifton Lodge is described by those of us who have the privilege of working here as a small, family-oriented, friendly school. Originally being a double-fronted Edwardian house enables us to provide small class sizes where each child matters and they receive a tailored education. Both the homely setting and the daily greeting help to make Clifton Lodge feel like a family - every morning children are welcomed by name and with a handshake. With specialist teachers across the school, staff are quickly able to know each child's name. As soon as you walk into our entrance hall you will understand why we are described as friendly; our lovely office staff will greet you with a smile and a welcome to make you feel at ease. Our pupils are courteous, curious and always willing to help.

Maths and English have their prominent place in our timetable, but we highly value each subject, which is evident in our inspiring Core Knowledge curriculum. We aim to nurture talent wherever it may lie, be it in the classroom, sports field, science lab, choir performance, art room or on the stage. This is also evident in our wide range of extra-curricular clubs which can include activities such as Chess and coding to Russian language and running.

A school full of scholarly pupils is our aim; but one that goes hand in hand with our Character Education. Our school virtues comprise of Love, Integrity, Self-Control, Wisdom, Fortitude and Justice. These are integrated into assemblies and form times throughout the school and underpin all aspects of school life. In Year 6, pupils work through the Narnian Virtues programme exploring these virtues in detail.

Clifton Lodge is a Christian ethos school and believes that the teachings of the Bible and from Christ's life and example are firm foundations for living and learning. We warmly welcome children from all faiths and none, greatly valuing the rich diversity of cultures, languages and beliefs we have here at Clifton Lodge.

Optime – Try always to do your best. This is the school motto and is applicable to both academia and character. As one previous headmaster used to say, “Your best is always good enough.” Our pupils feel safe and happy which enables them to take risks and push themselves to see what their best can be.

I look forward to welcoming you to our small, family-oriented, friendly school so you can see for yourself why it is such a joy to be a part of this community.

Aims

- We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and wellbeing of children and expect all staff, volunteers and other third parties to share this commitment. We want children to feel safe, happy and enjoy coming to school.
- To produce scholarly pupils who love learning and are curious about what they do not *yet* know.
- To nurture children's talent while enabling them to tackle difficulties with a growth mindset. 'Optime' is our motto but we know that our 'best' is always changing and improving as we learn.
- To develop character through understanding strengths and areas for development and learning how to put the school virtues into practice.

Virtues

Arguably, virtue has become an unfashionable word and we aim to change that view at Clifton Lodge. We are proud to hold to, display and be working on the following: Love, Integrity, Self-control, Wisdom, Justice and Fortitude.

Love – putting others first, being kind, caring and loyal.

Integrity – doing the right thing (even when it is hard), being truthful and following our conscience, keeping our promises to others.

Self-control – understanding that fulfilling our desires or impulses is not always what is best for us or others; learning that the best things are worth waiting and working hard for.

Wisdom – pausing before we react; weighing up situations and deciding what is best to do, knowing the difference between what we can and cannot control; asking for advice from others when needed

Justice – treating everyone equally, standing up for others when we see injustice, fulfilling responsible roles, owning up when we have made mistakes.

Fortitude – enduring through difficult times, sometimes with the help of others; demonstrating resilience and perseverance mentally, emotionally and sometimes physically.