

## Spiritual Provision at Dean Close

At Dean Close we are passionate that there is a better story for our community. Even before the pandemic there were negative stories written about this upcoming generation, now overlaid with extra toxicity with labels such as 'the lost generation' or 'the Corona generation' becoming commonplace. We are convinced that the story we listen to has power to shape us and we are committed to the better story moulded by our Christian ethos.



### Suffering

We believe that suffering is not shameful nor a mark of failure. We expect many in our community to struggle to get to grips with their new normal; this is nothing to be ashamed of or to deny. Convinced of the dignity of suffering we will model vulnerability, and openness about anxieties or disappointment in our school culture. Christianity is the story of overcoming through suffering, not despite suffering.



### Hope

We believe that there are reasons for hope especially in unfamiliar and sometimes difficult circumstances. This season presents opportunity like no other to see the development of resilience of character and self-understanding. Rather than eroding hope, suffering can sharpen it.



### Community

We believe that we are given to one another to bear with one another and pick one another up when we fall. In shock fashion the pandemic has reminded us all of our inescapable interdependence upon one another – even on a global scale. In every bubble, tutor group, team and form we will be modelling and encouraging one another to lean on and to support one another as occasion requires. We are stronger together.



### Identity

We believe that the opportunities for acts of service and the accompanying accountability found in community living is the very best environment within which to discover who we are, and who we want to be. In a very real sense I cannot be 'me' without 'you'. In this sense the truest and best expression of self is selfless, in service of another.



## Joy

We believe that joy matters, and is often happened upon rather than concocted. The anxious will often fixate on their (often legitimate) anxieties, thinking a constant focus will protect them. In the context of an assiduous respecting of health and safety guidelines at all times, we will be providing avenues for forgetting self and personal worries in the pursuit of creativity or athleticism or hanging out. Our joy can be our strength.

Of course there is much more that could be said but this is something of the better story rooted in the historic good news of Jesus. Of course there are many story-reinforcing forums such as year group Chapels, the HUB, Bible study groups, 1:1 mentoring and Evensong, but we hope and pray that it will saturate every corner of Dean Close in this new season as each one of us listens to, and becomes a narrator of this the best of all stories.