

Our
Community
Values



Introduction

At Village Forest School, our community values guide how we live, grow, and relate—especially in the presence of children. Rooted in love, clarity, and presence, these shared principles shape the emotional and cultural atmosphere of our school. In a small, diverse, and evolving community, each of us plays a vital role in building a village where children and adults alike can unfold with authenticity, dignity, and care.

VFS Council



Our Community Values



Respect and Wholeness in Human Relationships

We speak with care, seek understanding, avoid gossip, and address conflict directly—leaving others whole, respected, and heard.



Responsibility & Safety Around Children

We protect childhood by creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment—guarding their inner space from harm, haste, and adult concerns.



Support for Teachers & Educational Artists

We honor teachers as devoted guides, holding their role with reverence, trusting their intention, and speaking with respect and shared purpose.



Seeing Ourselves in Each Other

We honor each culture and story, nurturing belonging through shared traditions that reflect the rich diversity of our global village.



Connection to Nature

We live with awe and gratitude, nurturing deep connection with nature and all creation, striving to live in harmony with the Earth.



Commitment to School Growth

We help the school thrive by offering time, talent, and care—supporting its growth as a living, evolving place of shared purpose.

These values invite us into a shared journey of growth—one grounded in love, clarity, and presence. They call us to build a village where children feel truly safe to belong, and where adults, too, are embraced as works in progress.



Respect and Wholeness in Human Relationships

“Speak only the truth, and speak it kindly. Let your words be like a balm, not a blade.” — Traditional Proverb

We speak with care and attentiveness, mindful of how our language affects others. We leave others feeling whole and intact after every interaction, enabling them to carry on with dignity and clarity. We bring questions with openness of mind and spirit. We approach conflict directly and promptly, never allowing issues to fester. We speak to, not about. We engage directly with those involved, not around them. We seek understanding through dialogue, not criticism or assumption. We do not gossip.



Seeing Ourselves in Each Other

“If a child is to keep alive their inborn sense of wonder, they need the companionship of adults who can show joy in diversity.” — Rachel Carson

We celebrate our global village. Our traditions and festivals grow from the diverse gifts of our community. Each culture, religion, each story, each meal shared enriches our children's sense of belonging in the world. Here, the care for children is shared—each adult contributes to the well-being of every child, creating a true sense of collective responsibility and love. Everyone should see their reflection in the school and the community.



Responsibility & Safety Around Children

*“Receive the children in reverence, educate them in love,
and send them forth in freedom.” — Rudolf Steiner*

We protect the inner space and the sacred unfolding of our children by fostering an atmosphere of safety, respect, and belonging. We consciously shape a safe, respectful, and emotionally generous environment, knowing that the tone we set and the words we use profoundly shape our own and the children’s experience. We strive for inclusion in every space a child enters—from classroom to playground to birthday party. We safeguard our children by recognizing the impact of media and digital exposure. We protect their inner space by keeping adult topics out of earshot.



Support for Teachers & Educational Artists

“Teaching is not a function; it is a form of love.” — Vincenzo Gioberti

We begin with the belief that anyone who chooses the path of being a teacher in our school has done so with reverence and sincere intention. We hold that assumption with respect, and let it guide how we speak about—and to—each educator, both in our words and in our hearts. We honor the invisible, inner work of the teacher—the preparation, self-reflection, and vulnerability it takes to meet each child with care.

We believe that teachers are artistic guides. We welcome questions and concerns when they come from a place of curiosity and shared purpose. When we speak with reverence, we protect the teacher’s dignity and preserve the trust between us.

We honor and appreciate the dedication our educational artists bring to their role. We understand that the path of our teachers demands deep preparation, continuous personal and professional development and expert knowledge, much of which takes place beyond visible working hours.



Connection to Nature

“The Earth is not just our environment. We are the Earth, and the Earth is us.” — Thich Nhat Hanh

We value deep relationships with nature and the creative forces and strive to nurture this in our lives. We aim to live in harmony with the Earth, to live with awe, gratitude, and respect.



Commitment to School Growth

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” — Mahatma Gandhi

We nurture the growth and future of the school through meaningful volunteerism, active participation, and initiatives that align with our mission. We offer our time and talents not only to support current needs but also to help the school flourish and thrive into its full potential. We recognize that the school is a living organism, still in its early stages of life, and understand the importance of providing supportive attitudes and constructive feedback. We recognize that this is how a school becomes not just a place of learning, but a place of life.