

## Love - key concepts to unpack

- Love is regarded as the jewel among the virtues - love sums up all the values.
- Jesus quotes the key commandments of 'Loving God and loving our neighbour as ourselves' - in this way love sums up all that is most important about life.
- But love must not be 'just words'. It means something only when it is expressed in action and practical care.
- To love means putting other people's needs before your own.
- Christians teach that only when we love like this, can we become the best sort of people we can be. Christians believe that Jesus' life and work are our best examples of love in action and they also believe that as they trust in Jesus, he by his Spirit can inspire and work love out through their lives (see Romans 5:1).
- Children usually encounter love:
  - from parents and carers at home
  - from teachers in school
  - from their friends and relatives
  - from other adults in their lives
- Equally, children (and adults) who do not experience love might become damaged in some way; for example, they can no longer trust another human being; they cannot settle; they see other people as a threat; and when older they may become withdrawn and even possibly violent.
- Christians believe that a loving God made people in love, for love and that when this love is missing their wholeness as human beings begins to unravel.
- Love is ...
  - Caring

- Making a difference
- Being reflective
- Being thoughtful
- Sharing