

Statement of Faith

(Version 1 - Concise)

Where to place a Statement of Faith

There are various arguments as to whether the Statement of Faith should be embedded within the Constitution. Please note that:

- A Constitution is for the Members of the Company/Association and Directors of the Company/Association.
- The conduct of Members of the Company/Associated may be regulated by a Statement of Faith that is included as part of the Constitution.
- Employees of the Company/Association are **not** bound by the Company's constitution unless they are Members of the Company/Association.
- In most CEN schools, employees are not automatically Members of the Company/Association.
- The Statement of Faith should be an integral part of any Code of Conduct for employees whether it is embedded in the Constitution or not.

Preamble	<p>This <i>Statement of Faith</i> outlines what we believe as we engage in the task of Christian education. This is the faith on which our school was founded. This is who we are; this is what we promote, practise and teach.</p> <p><i>[Staff Clause (not in Constitution): Our staff are to uphold the Statement of Faith in both their public and private lives and are committed to the body of Christian believers through membership of a local church or Christian community]</i></p>
An Open Enrolment Clause	<p>As an open enrolment school, we recognise that our student and parent community includes a variety of faith and lifestyle beliefs. All are welcome in our school. Nevertheless, it is important when joining the school community, that families understand what the school promotes, practises and teaches. We recognise the right of parents and students to hold different positions on lifestyle or faith as private matters.</p>
God	<p>There is one God and He is sovereign and eternal. He is revealed in the Bible as three equal divine Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God depends on nothing and no one; everything and everyone depends on Him. God is holy, just, wise, loving and good. God created all things, visible and invisible, from His own sovereign will, and by His Word they are sustained.¹</p> <p>The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternally existing, only begotten Son of the Father. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, truly God and truly human. He lived a sinless life and died for our sins. He was buried, rose from the dead in bodily form and ascended into heaven. Jesus is King of the universe and Head of the Church - His people whom He has redeemed. He will return to gather His people to Himself, to judge all people and bring in the consummation of God's Kingdom.²</p> <p>The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. He convicts people of their sin, leads them to repentance, creates faith within them and regenerates them. He is the source of their new, sanctified life bringing forth His fruit in the lives of believers. He gifts believers according to His sovereign will, enabling them to serve God.³</p>

¹ Gen. 1, Deut. 6:4, Matt. 28:19, Mark 12:29, John 14:8-18, Col. 1:15-20

² Isa. 53, John 1:1-14, Luke 1 & 2, Acts 1: 1-11, 1 Cor. 15:3 - 5, 1 Cor. 15:24-26, Col. 1:15-20, Heb. 1:1-4, Rev. 20:11-21:8

³ 2 Cor. 3:7-18, John 14:16- 18, John 15:26, 1 Cor. 12:3, Titus 3:3- 8

The Bible	The Bible, also known as the Holy Scriptures, is the divinely inspired, authoritative, infallible written Word of God. The Bible is necessary and sufficient for our knowledge of God, of ourselves and the rest of creation, including education. ⁴
Life before God	<p>[The Bible teaches] In the beginning, God created humanity, both male and female, in the persons of Adam and Eve, in His own image. God established marriage as a union for life between a man and a woman, to the exclusion of all others, for companionship and intimacy, and as the rightful place for sexual activity and procreation. As God's image-bearers, humans were created to live in relationship with our Creator, to love, serve, worship and enjoy Him forever as they faithfully exercise dominion, under God, through possessing, caring for and enjoying God's creation.⁵</p> <p>All of human life is grounded in faith commitments. It is unfolded either as service to God or of a substitute for God. Sin alienates us from God and each other. All have sinned, have fallen short of the standards of God, and are under God's judgement. God holds each person responsible and accountable for choices made and actions pursued. Human responsibility and accountability do not limit God's sovereignty. God's sovereignty does not diminish human responsibility and accountability. Salvation from the penalty of sin can only be found through our Lord Jesus Christ, through repentance from sin and faith in His substitutionary, atoning death and resurrection. ⁶</p>
A Christian	A Christian is someone who responds to God's grace, accepts God's call to acknowledge and follow Jesus Christ as Lord. Christians seek to live authentic biblically grounded lives in community with other believers, dependent on the Holy Spirit, and across all spheres of life, including education. ⁷

⁴ Deut. 10:12–13, 2 Tim. 3:16–17, 2 Peter 1:19–21

⁵ Gen. 1:27–28, Gen. 2:15, Gen. 3:16–20, Matt. 19:4–6

⁶ Rom. 1:18–20, Rom. 3:22–24, Rom. 6:23, Rom. 12

⁷ John 14:16–18, John 15:26, Rom. 6:23, Rom. 12, Titus 3:3–8, 1 Peter 2:21