

# Statement of Faith

## (Version 2 – Expanded)

### 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.

<b>Preamble</b>	<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>
<b>An Open Enrolment Clause</b>	<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>
<b>God</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is one God who is three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>2. God created the world and He created us to be His people. God loves us and is our Father in Heaven. He rules over the world and provides us with everything we need. God reveals Himself to us through His creation, through His Word in the Bible, and most of all through His Son Jesus Christ.<sup>2</sup></li> </ol>
<b>The Bible</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The Bible is God's written Word, spoken by God through the people who wrote it. Because of this we can trust the Bible in everything we believe and do. In the Bible, God tells us how much He loves us and how He wants to be with us forever, as His family. The Bible guides and directs us on how God wants us to live. It tells us what God is like and that His plan for us is good.<sup>3</sup></li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:4, Matt. 28:19, Mark 12:29, John 14:8–18

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 1, Ps. 19:1–4, Ps. 33:6, Rom. 1:20, Heb. 1:1–4

<sup>3</sup> Deut. 10:12–13, 2 Tim. 3:16–17, 2 Peter 1:19–21

<p><b>Life before God</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. God is Holy and His law is perfect. God created humanity, both male and female, in His own image. Since the beginning when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, all people have broken God's laws. This is what sin is. God is offended when we break His laws. Unless we turn to Him and ask His help to turn away from our sin, we will be separated from Him forever.<sup>4</sup></li> <li>5. But God loves us and does not want to be separated from us. God wants us to be in His family. He wants us to honour Him because He made the world and He rules over the world. He wants us to learn about Him from the Bible. He wants us to talk to Him and enjoy being with Him.<sup>5</sup></li> <li>6. God's plan is to welcome us into His family again. This happens when we trust in Jesus. Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man and taught people about God. Jesus lived exactly how God planned for Him and never broke God's law. Jesus took the consequences for our sin when He died on the cross. Because of this, God promises He will forgive us when we turn to Him and away from our sin. Believing in Jesus and why He died for us is the only way we can be in God's family again.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>7. Jesus died for us, but that was not the end! Jesus also rose from the dead. He is alive again! Jesus is the ruler of the world. He broke the power of sin and death. The Bible says Jesus is now in Heaven. He rules over the world with God. Jesus is preparing a place for every person who trusts in Him.<sup>7</sup></li> <li>8. Because Jesus is God's Son and the ruler of everything, we can be sure His promises are true. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us believe God's promises and to understand the Bible. The Holy Spirit helps us believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us see all the things we do that break God's law, and helps us to be more like God wants us to be. He encourages us to do God's work here on earth. God is bringing His world back to Himself and wants us to participate with Him in this work. One day Jesus will return to this world, and everything will be made new and right.<sup>8</sup></li> <li>9. God wants us to tell all people in the world about how much He loves them. God wants us to tell all people about how He is the ruler of the world. God wants us to tell all people about Jesus and why He died. Every person who puts their trust in Jesus becomes part of God's family, called the church.<sup>9</sup></li> <li>10. The Bible says that God's promises are for all people who believe in Him. This means Christian parents want to teach their children to know and love God too. God's best plan for children is that they grow up in families. The Bible teaches that families are formed through marriage and tells us that marriage is a commitment between one man and one woman, to the exclusion of all others, that is intended to last for life and is the rightful place for sexual activity and procreation.<sup>10</sup></li> </ol>
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<sup>4</sup> Gen. 1:27, Rom. 1:18–32, Rom. 5:12–14, Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:3

<sup>5</sup> John 14:1–3, Rom. 3:22–24

<sup>6</sup> Matt. 20:28, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Tim. 2:5–6, 1 Peter 2:22–24

<sup>7</sup> Matt. 28:18, Luke 24:36–43, John 5:21–23, John 14:2–3, 1 Peter 1:3

<sup>8</sup> John 14:16–18, John 15:26, 1 Cor. 2:9–10, 1 Cor. 12:3, Titus 3:3–8

<sup>9</sup> Matt. 28:18–19, Mark 16:15–16, Acts 1:8, Rom. 12:4–8, Eph. 1:20–22, Heb. 10:24–25

<sup>10</sup> Gen. 1:27–28, Gen. 2:24, Gen 17:7, Matt. 19:4–6, Matt. 19:14, Acts 2:39, Eph. 5:22–32

<b>A Christian</b>	11. A Christian is someone who trusts in God's gift of Jesus Christ as his or her Saviour and who strives to follow Jesus' example in every area of life. <sup>11</sup>
<b>Christian Schools</b>	<p>12. Christian schools partner with families in teaching children that the world and everything in it belong to God. Christian schools weave this understanding all through their curriculum and in their everyday practices.<sup>12</sup></p> <p>13. God wants His family to protect and nurture every person as an individual who has dignity and worth from before they are born. He wants His people to work for justice in every society and to protect and care for His creation. He wants us to love others as He loves them.<sup>13</sup></p> <p>14. This is God's world and Jesus Christ is at the heart of all things. Jesus is the ruler and King of everything we do. He is Lord in our schools, in our homes, in our lives and in our hearts. Everything we do can be done with thanks for everything God has given us as an act of worship to Him.<sup>14</sup></p>

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<sup>11</sup> Rom. 6:23, Rom. 12, Titus 3:3-8, 1 Peter 2:21

<sup>12</sup> Deut. 6:6-7, Deut. 10:14, Ps. 24:1, Eph. 6:4

<sup>13</sup> Gen. 1:26-28, Ex. 20:13, Ps. 139:13-16, Micah 6:8

<sup>14</sup> Deut. 10:14, Ps 24:1, Ps 150:6, Eph. 1:20-22, Rev. 5:13