

FOUNDATION STATEMENT



A. GOD AS SOVEREIGN LORD

All that exists has been made by God in His three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). “God from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass” (W.C. 3:1). Further, this creating God “doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness and mercy.” (W.C. 5:1).

Despite the effects of sin within God’s world, it is sustained and sovereignty governed by Him. It is neither chaotic nor meaningless.

This world cannot be understood rightly except in relationship to God. Therefore, all true education is conducted in the light of what God has revealed of Himself and His will. His authority over all things must be acknowledged.

Consequently, there is no dichotomy between ‘spiritual’ and ‘secular’ truth.

Further, all skill and talents are to be accepted as gracious gifts of God, and a reflection of His being, all nature is to be accepted as a revelation of His Majesty, and all history as the outworkings of His eternal decree.

Because God is Lord of all, only the highest and best standards will be pursued in all areas of school life.

B. JESUS CHRIST

God the Father’s supreme purpose is to glorify His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the beginning and the end of all things. “It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and Man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Saviour of His Church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world, unto whom He did from all eternity give a people, to be His seed, and to be by Him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified and glorified”. (W.C. 8:1).

The school exists primarily that it might bring honour to Christ as Lord and God, in all things.

By His death and obedient life, Jesus Christ alone makes God’s people righteous. “The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience, and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of His Father, and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto Him”. (W.C. 8:5)

C. THE WORD OF GOD

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments alone are the inerrant, authoritative, written Word of God. “The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deducted from Scripture: unto which nothing is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit or traditions of men.” (W.C. 1.6)

Therefore, the school community, in all the dimensions of its life, must be governed by His Word. All that is taught and done must flow directly from it, or else be evaluated and understood in the light of its teaching.

D. MAN

Man was made to honour the Sovereign God in all things. By his disobedience, Adam dishonoured God, bringing God's wrath upon himself and all mankind. "From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions." "Every sin, both original and actual, being a transgression of the righteous law of God, and contrary thereunto, doth, in its own nature, bring guilt upon the sinner, whereby he is bound over to the wrath of God, and curse of the law, and so made subject to death, with all miseries spiritual, temporal, and eternal." (W.C. 6:4,6)

God's world too, is subject to decay because of man's sin. The creation wars against man, further preventing his dominion over it.

Only by the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, is it possible for sinful man to honour God. "All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to call by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ, enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh, renewing their wills and, by His almighty power, determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ, yet so, as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace." (W.C. 10:1)

By God's common grace, all men benefit from the learning of truths about God's world. However, true learning is possible only where the Holy Spirit renews hearts and minds. This work is the indispensable foundation of all true wisdom and knowledge.

E. PARENTS

The responsibility for the nurture of children, by instruction and discipline, is given to their parents by God. Accordingly, the character and direction of the education of their children is to be determined by parents..

The outworking of this responsibility may be rightly shared within a Christian Association, such that others assist in the educational task.

The school exists to aid parents in this regard, whether they are within the Association or not.

F. TEACHER

The teachers hold their position by virtue of their gifts, and the authority delegated to them by the Association as teachers over the children within the school. Their authority, rightly exercised, is to be upheld by the whole school community. It is recognised that all authority is of God, to whom all who exercise it must give account. Such accountability applies to parents, teachers, and the school's governing body.

Therefore:

(i) Goals

Though he is dead in sin, man retains something of the image of God. Therefore, each child is to be treated as an individual with valuable gifts and talents to be developed for the honour of Christ. By God's

grace, children are helped to take their place in God's world, equipped physically, mentally and spiritually, to live as Christ's servants. Knowledge of the real world is developed - of its ugliness as well as of its beauty, its evil as well as of its good - in the light of the Word of God.

(ii) Teaching

Under God's Spirit, Who alone makes teaching effective, the teacher will select those methods which best accomplish his goal of transmitting truth to the student. He will have oversight of all learning activity so as to ensure the best understanding, and standards of work and progress which are acceptable.

Since the overall task of the school is to help the Student become like Christ, and in the light of God's hatred of sin, and opposition to it, instruction, punishment, counselling and prayer will be employed as is necessary.

(iii) Staffing

Because the biblical model is discipleship, it is essential to recruit teachers who, in addition to talking about their subject are willing and able to demonstrate its relevance and practicality for students by the actual use of its principles in real life situations. The teacher who disciples is himself a model of what he teaches not a model only of someone talking about his subjects. Staff are selected on the basis of their:

- (a) commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord, and evident holiness of life,
- (b) whole-hearted acceptance of the Foundation Statement and of the Reformed Confessions as referred to in the Clause 2(a), and,
- (c) competence as teachers, with an ability to aid in all major aspects of a child's development

Finally.....

It is recognised that these articles do not convey a comprehensive statement, either of Biblical doctrine, or of educational policy. The basic truths to which the school is committed may be found in the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapters 1-20, from which a number of statements quoted above are taken.