



Freie Evangelische Schulen e.V.

# Our **Guiding Principles**

Lörrach | Schopfheim | Kandern | Müllheim | Waldshut



**Together With God With Respect With Quality**

## The basis of our faith

We believe in the triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He created our world; He loves it and keeps it. This is how He shows His sovereignty and His mercy.

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Mankind, created in the likeness of God, has a distinct dignity. We were created as men and women. Because of our sin and guilt, we are separated from God.

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Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, died vicariously for all of mankind. His sacrificial death alone is the foundation of forgiveness of sin, liberation from the power of sin and redemption in God's judgement. Jesus Christ, whom God resurrected from the dead, is the only way to God. Man can only be justified by faith in Him and the grace of God.

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It is by the Holy Spirit that people recognise who God is. When we are born again, the Holy Spirit creates new life and enables believers to live according to God's will. He gives them gifts to apply in ministry.

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Jesus Christ is building His church worldwide. He is calling and enabling believers to proclaim the gospel and to act in a loving and righteous manner.

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Jesus Christ will come again in power and glory, visible for everyone, to judge the living and the dead and to perfect the kingdom of God. He will create a new heaven and a new earth.

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The bible – consisting of the scripture of the Old and the New Testament – is the revelation of the triune God. It is inspired by the Spirit of God; it is reliable and the highest authority in all questions of faith and living.

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Foundation of the German Evangelical Alliance's Faith  
dated 2 September 1846, revised 2018

## The Apostles' Creed

**This creed is the essence of what Christians believe.**

One may profess to a football club or a political party. In church, we professes to important statements of faith that are comprised in this creed. The are recited by the congregation during church services. The Apostles' Creed is based on what the apostles said about Jesus. The Christians of the early church agreed upon these sentences to affirm their faith. They were passed on throughout the centuries.

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**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of the saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

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Our Vision:

## School according to God's plan

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Our motto or what we stand for:

## Together With God With Respect With Quality

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### Our guiding principles

Our confession is based on the Apostles' Creed as well as the Foundation of the German Evangelical Alliance's Faith. Our entire staff is committed to this creed. Parents who enrol their children at our school agree that their children be educated on this basis.

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We strive to achieve an education oriented towards biblical values. In practical application, this means that we attempt to impart a Christian understanding of the world and life to our students. Christian ethics and the biblical image of humanity are integrated into school life in a natural way.

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We want to enable our students to find their way in a pluralistic society and to become mature and responsible adults. To attain a comprehensive education, they may develop their own faith in Jesus Christ and recognise the bible as a means of orientation in their lives. We deliberately want Christian life to be understood as an offer; If you choose to believe in Jesus Christ, it should be your own free will.

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As a privately funded denominational school we have our own emphases. However, being a state-acknowledged school, we teach according to the syllabuses and guidelines of the State of Baden-Württemberg.



## School #together

The basis of any education is trust. It lets your child experience safety, a sense being accepted as well as emotional security. Our role model in doing so is God's unconditional acceptance of everyone.

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The cornerstone of a Christian school is the close and trusting cooperation between homes and school for the benefit of the children. The school supports parental responsibility to educate the children, while the parents affirm and support the school's objectives.

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In cooperation with their parents or guardians, students experience a culture of feedback targeted at a continuous development. We have designed our school to be an environment in which students, parents and teachers perceive one another as learning partners.

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No educator can guarantee the success of their endeavours. Despite all abilities, good will and efforts made, they still might fail. To nurture the child in a comprehensive manner, parents and the school need to learn from and support one another benevolently in the sense of an educational partnership.

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A trusting atmosphere and friendly interaction facilitate cooperation. Teachers do not speak ill about students or parents, while parents help strengthen the teachers' authority over their children.



## School #withGod

Every human being is a unique and valuable creation of God. He or she is loved by God and called into fellowship with God. We are also to respect and love ourselves, other people and God's creation.

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Due to our personal guilt, we are all separated from God, and we fail to live according to His original purpose for us. The world we live in is characterised by sin and, therefore, also by suffering.

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In order to live in peace with God and our neighbours, we need to recognise our sin, acknowledge it and be prepared to change. Thus, everyone is eligible to experience forgiveness.

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In His Son, Jesus Christ, God offers reconciliation with Him, with ourselves and others around us. By dying on the cross, Jesus atoned all of our human guilt; this opened up the way to God, the Father.

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The bible and what it says shows us God's ideas for this world and our lives. God speaks to us through the bible. Its values are guidelines for our actions and our work. God is affirmative of life and opens our eyes to eternity. Our school tries to convey a realistic view of the world. For hope is crucial to any child's healthy development. Hope – especially in times of anxiety about the future and resignation – is a strong motor. It gives us courage to carry on and purpose to our lives.

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We base our hope on Jesus Christ moving among us. God created the world and us people with a good objective. We trust that God will help this world and our lives achieve this objective. Sin and failure are not the end; we are rather given the option of a new beginning with God.

**Forgiveness, repentance and change characterise our school life and enable us to find approaches to solving all challenges and conflicts.**

## School #withRespect

Our young ones are growing up in a world characterised by numerous spiritual streams, ideologies and influences. The inherent value pluralism is simply too much for children's decision-making abilities. In this conflict, educators need to guide, accompany and gradually release them into self-sufficiency.

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And for children to attain independence and responsibility, they need a positive affirmation of their own personality. The absence of self-acceptance is one of the main causes for lacking motivation, for aggression and frustration.

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We want students to recognise and acknowledge their responsibility for their own lives step by step. The way they deal with themselves and others is up to their own decision and responsibility. We want our students to learn to take responsibility for themselves, the social community and the world God entrusted to us.

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By dealing with the rules and values of the group, students will gain social skills. Authority should always be exercised for the benefit of children and never for the educator's display of power.

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Students, teachers and parents encounter each other with esteem and respect for their differences.

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Conflicts may occur and will be clarified in constructive dialogue.

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We strictly reject physical, psychological and sexual violence or abuse, and we protect those affected. We respect the property of others.

## School #withQuality

We want to help our students develop their individual gifts and become integrated and independent personalities. This means that we keep improving our work in order to promote their intellectual, emotional, physical, creative, social and moral abilities and talents in the best way possible.

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We want to support students with social deficits or poor performance.

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Becoming strong also means growing with one's challenges, enduring tension and experiencing one's limits.

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Performance, hard work and diligence are positive traits we intend to strengthen. However, our personal value does not depend on the results of our endeavours or our grades. We want to help students accept their limitations and weaknesses, and develop their strengths.

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A school needs to prepare students for the changing reality and facilitate active learning.

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Learning with your heart, hand and mind is a holistic approach that facilitates the learning experiences that are indispensable for understanding world we live in.

Heart stands for living and loving, hand for acting and performing, and mind for learning and guiding. Heart, hand and mind are what the full integration of human life and social relations is all about.



# What we do

## Showing our faith in everyday school life

In all of our departments, we attach great importance to working according to biblical values.

Our staff are professing Christians in the sense of the Apostles' Creed and the Foundation of the German Evangelical Alliance's Faith. They live a life according to the bible's human image, and Christian ethics based on the Ten Commandments.

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## Staff devotionals

Within the different types of schools and departments, we give one another spiritual impulses for the day, pray with and for one another and enjoy singing together during our daily devotionals.

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## Devotionals for students

The first lesson in the morning starts with a short spiritual impulse about a scripture, a story or a song as well as prayer.

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## Shared responsibility

Faith means building fellowship together. Students, parents and, of course, our staff get involved in our processes.

## Prayer

We need to consecrate space and time to prayer. We deliberately want to take regular time to stop and talk to God. Moments for students and staff to pray out loud or in silence, alone or with others, everyone in their own way. Teachers' conferences and meetings begin with prayer. Not because it is our habit but because we are deeply convinced that God hears our prayers and speaks into our everyday life.

Teams of students offer opportunities for prayer during recess at our prayer room or one of the music rooms within the Realschule building.

The prayer of parents for their children and our schools is of particular importance to us. Regular parents' prayer meetings take place at all locations.

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## Social and charitable projects

In cooperation with different organisations and churches, we plan and conduct various social and charitable projects. We do this in order to raise the students' awareness of the needs within our region and beyond, to encourage them to find solutions to the challenges in this world and to become part of the answer themselves.



## **An international network of faith**

In school partnerships, international student exchanges and networking with globally active educational organisations, our school takes responsibility within the Christian community worldwide. Our students are given the opportunity to experience that the family of God includes people of all backgrounds.

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## **Church services**

At the beginning of the school year, on the Day of Prayer and Repentance and on the first school day after Christmas, we organise church services together with students, parents and staff. Our students' services take place regularly. They are organised by students for students and – with spiritual impulses, music and prayer – they provide a different perspective on school, life, our world and our campus. In an unconventional, student-oriented way, these students' services allow our young ones to learn about fundamental Christian convictions and even form some of their own. In preparing these services, students additionally have the opportunity to practise their talents, develop leadership and participate actively in the living faith at FES.



## **Staff retreats**

Once a year, we have a retreat for the staff of all school types and departments. We take a time out from school life for two days to strengthen our fellowship and to focus on what is essential. We like being out and about together.

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## **Christian curriculum**

We place particular emphases in our school curriculum and strive for the unity of faith and knowledge. God is with us when we look at our world and think about it.

Apart from the syllabus of the State of Baden-Württemberg, this “integrated” approach materially characterises the way we teach and design our lessons. Controversial discussions, also with guests of the most varied denominations and backgrounds as well as role models and leading figures invited to the classes, promote and challenge the hearts and the minds, combining depth of faith with the vastness of thought. Voicing contradictions and doubts is just as welcome as experiencing God in an emotional way.



# The Ten Commandments:

# Commandments applied to life

I am the Lord your God.

You shall have no other gods before Me.

**I am free**

to cast my life upon God, to bring my weaknesses before God and to put my trust in God alone.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

**I am free**

to expect God to hear me when I call Him, to take God seriously and not to trifle with Him.

Keep the Sabbath day holy.

**I am free**

to rest in God, to celebrate with God, to feel God's blessings.

Honour your father and your mother.

**I am free**

to respect those people especially to whom I am bound by more than friendship and sympathy. It is God's good order for parents and children to be connected to one another.

You shall not murder.

**I am free**

to respect and conserve all life. Not only in my actions but also in my words and thoughts.

You shall not commit adultery.

**I am free**

to respect and conserve the bonds of the people around me as well as my own ones.

You shall not steal.

**I am free**

to respect the belongings of other people as well as my own.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

**I am free**

to live with the truth and I do not have to rewrite my own truth.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house.

**I am free**

to trust that God's blessings are sufficient for everyone.

You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, slaves, animals or anything else.

I do not have to envy others for their fortune, nor for their belongings.

## The ten commandments are the foundation of Christian ethics.

Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. — Philipians 3, 12 CSB