

Statements to Live By

Statements to Live By' is used in a number of schools throughout the Middlesbrough Diocese.

These statements help the children and all of us adults too, to think about who we are, what we believe and what we hope to become. We hope that together we will nurture a sense of what it is to be fully human and alive as children and adults sharing in this Christian community.

The resource is rooted in nine guiding principles which support the distinctive nature of Catholic schools. The statements make the Catholic values of the school explicit, promote a positive and caring Christian ethos that is understood and communicated to everyone, promote emotional literacy and contribute towards community cohesion and the common good.

They ensure that children and young people are given opportunities to:

- **Hear the Christian story and encounter the person of Jesus**
- **Understand their uniqueness as made in the image and likeness of God**
- **Experience a sense of belonging within a range of communities, including the local Eucharistic community**
- **Know, appreciate and understand the importance of social justice**
- **Know that our limitations are also opportunities for growth**
- **Understand the connection between knowledge and living**
- **Know that everything has the opportunity to reveal God's presence to us, ie to see the divine in the ordinary**
- **Forgive and be forgiven, to reconcile and be reconciled**
- **Experience fun, humour, imagination, creativity, play and excitement in life**

There are 36 statements in all which are linked to our Religious Education programme and the Catholic life of the school but each one is relevant no matter what our religious beliefs are.

Each week a different statement such as 'I try to be just and fair' is displayed in every classroom and around the school, and introduced and explained to the children in Monday's whole school assembly.

Children are encouraged to think about the statement which is also explored in circle times (written specifically for each statement). Each statement is linked to the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) curriculum. CAFOD have also provided material which explores the statements.

The children love sharing their thoughts on the statements and especially enjoy circle time when they often share their faith and belief.