

Foundational Document for

Philosophy of Education

Version 2024



PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Global Leadership Academy strives to fulfil its mission and realise its vision through an educational philosophy grounded in the following 14 statements. At the core of this philosophy is the belief that the teachings of the Bible are absolute, dependable, and unchanging, serving as the foundation for all aspects of our educational approach.

1. The Source of All Truth

We believe that all truth is found in God and revealed through His Word. Education, therefore, is a process where the Bible and Christian values dictate wisdom, knowledge, and skills that are discovered, taught and applied.

Biblical Reference:

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17, NIV)

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6, NIV)

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6, NIV)

2. God as Creator and Sustainer

We affirm that God existed before creation, created everything, and sustains it by His power. Therefore, everyone should acknowledge his existence and their dependence on Him.

Biblical Reference:

"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17, NIV)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." (John 1:1-3, NIV)

3. The Handiwork of God in Creation

We believe that God's handiwork is evident in all creation, and we help children explore and appreciate His creative design. Romans 1:20 declares that God's invisible qualities are clearly seen in creation, inviting children to discover His presence through nature and learning.

Biblical Reference:

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." (Psalm 19:1, NIV)

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (Romans 1:20, NIV)

4. Sin, Salvation, and Spiritual Growth

We acknowledge the sinful nature of humanity and aim to create an environment where children can recognise their need for forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ. We nurture spiritual growth by encouraging saving faith and a personal relationship with Him. John 16:8 explains the Holy Spirit's role in convicting the world of sin, guiding children towards accepting Christ as their Saviour.

Biblical Reference:

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace

through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:23-24, NIV)

“And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8, ESV)

5. Biblical Worldview Integration

We strive to integrate a Biblical worldview in whole character development, as well as in all academic disciplines, promoting high standards while helping students develop critical and creative thinking skills. Colossians 2:8 warns against hollow philosophies and emphasises learning that is rooted in Christ.

Biblical Reference:

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6, NIV)

"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." (Colossians 2:8, ESV)

6. Biblical Identity

We affirm that God created human beings as male and female, reflecting His perfect design in creation. While recognising the existence of different societal views, we are committed to teaching a Biblical perspective on identity. He created all people in His image, giving them purpose and meaning. Our education reflects the belief that every individual finds his or her true, value, purpose and identity in God. Psalm 139:14 declares that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, emphasising the significance of God's design in each person's identity.

Biblical Reference:

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27, NIV)

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." (Psalm 139:14, ESV)

7. The Value and Potential of Children

Children are a precious blessing, uniquely gifted and designed by God with potential and purpose. We aim to nurture them with unconditional love and support them as they grow. Matthew 19:14 shows the value of children to Jesus, urging them to come to Him, reinforcing the belief in their significance and potential.

Biblical Reference:

"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him." (Psalm 127:3, NIV)

"Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14, NIV)

8. Stewardship and Eternal Perspective

We believe in the responsible stewardship of what God has entrusted to us, living with an eternal perspective that aligns with God's purposes for His Kingdom. Matthew 6:19-20 instructs believers to store treasures in heaven, focusing on eternal rewards rather than earthly gain.

Biblical Reference:

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1, NIV)

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust[a] destroy and where

thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” (Matthew 6:19-20, ESV)

9. The Purpose of Education

The purpose of education is to help children discover their God-given purpose and identity. We seek to equip them with the skills necessary to fulfil that purpose in a meaningful way, recognising that their ultimate identity is found in Christ. Proverbs 19:21 reminds us that education's focus should be on discovering and fulfilling God's purpose.

Biblical Reference:

“For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16, NIV)

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. (Proverbs 19:21, ESV)

10. Intellectual and Character Education

We integrate intellectual growth with character development, teaching that Jesus Christ is the ultimate model of character, worthy of imitation. Our goal is to foster and develop balanced individuals who are rooted in love, serving God and others in all aspects of life. Romans 12:2 emphasises the importance of transforming both mind and character by renewing one's thoughts according to God's will.

Biblical Reference:

“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2, ESV)

11. Educating the Whole Child

We believe in educating the whole child—spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally. Our spiritual lives influence all aspects of life and learning, necessitating holistic growth. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 affirms the desire for complete sanctification of the spirit, soul and body, supporting the concept of educating the whole person. **Biblical Reference:**

“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” (Luke 2:52, NIV)

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:23, NIV)

12. Biblical Discipline

An integral part of holistic development is discipline. Hebrews 12 lays the foundation for Godly discipline, ultimately aimed at the genuine good of the child.

Biblical reference:

“Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we

submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”
(Hebrews 12:7-11, NIV)

13. Christian Teachers as Role Models

We believe that Christian teachers serve as living examples of Biblical principles. Their actions, character, and words model the values of humility, integrity, and service for the students to emulate. 1 Timothy 4:12 encourages teachers to set an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

Biblical Reference:

“In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness.” (Titus 2:7, NIV)

Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12, NIV)

14. The Value of Family Partnership

Since we believe in the importance of family, we partner with parents to support and engage meaningfully in their children’s education. Proverbs 22:6 emphasises the role of parents in training up a child in the way they should go, underscoring the partnership between family and school.

Biblical Reference:

“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, NIV)

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22:6, NIV)

15. Active Community Engagement

We believe in active community engagement, encouraging individuals to be involved intentionally. This includes belonging to a spiritual community, and becoming mission-minded and compassionate in becoming sensitive to the needs of others, learning to support and serve others. Matthew 5:16 encourages believers to do good publically for God’s glory.

Biblical Reference:

“Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”
(Hebrews 13:16, NIV)

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16, NIV)
