

# WEST Lifestyle Statement

WEST provides tutor-led classes from a Christian perspective coming alongside parents, who have the ultimate responsibility for the education of their children, and provides learning opportunities which parents and their children agree to participate in by registering for classes.

The chosen participation in WEST by parents and their children creates a community in which we have responsibilities to each other to promote an atmosphere of life and learning that will enhance our growth and relationship with each other and with God.

Since we are a community, it is important that at WEST (and WEST activities), staff, tutors, students as well as family members work together to achieve a community that centers around the following values. Therefore, by signing our statements, and/or registering for classes, we agree to uphold these standards.

In this endeavor, WEST seeks to walk in the truth of God's Word, the Bible. Our desire is to live like Jesus Christ who is full of grace and truth (John 1:14). We know that we are all sinners (Romans 3:23) and as a result we need God's forgiveness. We believe that God in His mercy, spares us from what we deserve, and in His grace He blesses us with what we do not deserve. Christians are assured forgiveness and are dead to sin, however, we should not continue in sin so God can keep forgiving us. We are no longer slaves to sin, and we are called to not make a practice of sinning. (Romans 6:12-13, Galatians 5:1). We need to live in a way that is different from the world. Rather than being conformed to the world, we are called to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12: 1-2). When we sin, we are called to ask for forgiveness (I John 1:19). We are called to repent (turn away) for our sins and no longer walk in them (Acts 3:19).

For these reasons, WEST would like to address several issues that are controversial in society today and could affect the community relationships at WEST. WEST does not intend to say that one sin is bigger or worse than any other. Sin is sin; and we are called upon to reject all sin. WEST specifically addresses these issues because modern society has confused and in some instances intentionally misrepresented what Scripture says regarding these behaviors.

*Truth of Scripture:* We believe the Bible is true and it is the standard of truth, and moral goodness. (Psalm 19:7-11)

*Family Structure:* We believe that marriage is a covenant relationship between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5)

*Sexual Purity:* We believe that any sexual activity outside the marriage bond between one man and one woman is sin. (Hebrews 13:4)

*Sanctity of Life:* We believe that life is a gift from God and is precious and begins at conception. (Psalm 139: 13-16; Isaiah 44:2a)

*Relationships:* We believe that all humans are created in the image of God and each individual is highly valuable. As a result, God expects all people to be treated with respect and honor. We are called to love and encourage one another as we strive for unity in Christ. (Mark 12:29-31; I John 4: 19-20).

*Personal Conduct and Behaviors:* We believe that personal behavior and morality, at the most basic level is the means by which people enjoy relational harmony. Students at WEST should expect to study and learn in an environment requiring a high standard of personal conduct. This includes but is not limited to obedience to the law, the WEST Code of Conduct, WEST Statement of Faith, WEST Lifestyle Statement and the spirit of this community.

We will avoid behaviors that are destructive to our personal social development or interpersonal relationships such as hazing, cyber bullying, gambling, pranking, invasion of personal property, fighting, physical/verbal/emotional or sexual harassment, and the use of unwholesome media or pornography.

Character qualities, actions and behaviors that should not be present in the lives of believers include such things as: slander, gossip, profanity, greed, sexual immorality, selfishness, malice, rage, homosexuality, impurity, immorality, evil desires, idolatry, thievery, drunkenness and dishonesty. (Ephesians 5:3-5)

As sinners saved by grace, we will make mistakes with each other. Through this Lifestyle Statement, we hope to establish accountability to each other in our Christian walk. These standards are not intended to be legalistic rule keeping. Instead, they are an expression of our love for God and each other and our goal to walk worthy of the purpose for which we have been called. We know that not all Christians have the same personal convictions but that does not exclude us from establishing behavioral standards for the purposes of the WEST community. We will choose to be respectful of choices different than our own and when we vary in our personal convictions, parents and students, as well as staff and tutors will need to follow the biblical mandate to relate to each other in Christian love.