

The environment

We value the environment, both natural and shaped by humanity, as the basis of life and a source of wonder and inspiration.

On the basis of these values, we should:

- * accept our responsibility to maintain a sustainable environment for future generations
- * understand the place of human beings within nature
- * understand our responsibilities for other species
- * ensure that development can be justified
- * preserve balance and diversity in nature wherever possible
- * preserve areas of beauty and interest for future generations
- * repair, wherever possible, habitats damaged by human development and other means.

A statement of values

A few years ago, the government set up a forum, a large group of people from all over England and Wales, to draw up a 'statement of values in education and the community'. The forum was asked to decide whether there are any values that are commonly agreed on across society. It produced a secular statement, with no reference to any religion.

This text was sent out to several thousand schools, national organisations and individuals, and they were asked whether they agreed with it. About 90% agreed, which shows that despite the many differences between people, there are values that the great majority share.

What are your views on 'The Statement of Values in Education and The Community'?

Do you agree with the values that have been listed?

Link the 'Environment Values' to the work you have done in Science on extinction of animals, how does this make you feel?

Do you agree with the values?

Would you add any more?

Society

We value truth, freedom, justice, human rights, the rule of law and collective effort for the common good. In particular, we value families as sources of love and support for all their members, and as the basis of a society in which people care for others.

On the basis of these values, we should:

- * understand and carry out our responsibilities as citizens
- * refuse to support values or actions that may be harmful to individuals or communities
- * support families in raising children and caring for dependants
- * support the institution of marriage
- * recognise that the love and commitment required for a secure and happy childhood can also be found in families of different kinds
- * help people to know about the law and legal processes
- * respect the rule of law and encourage others to do so
- * respect religious and cultural diversity
- * promote opportunities for all
- * support those who cannot, by themselves, sustain a dignified lifestyle
- * promote participation in the democratic process by all sectors of the community
- * contribute to, as well as benefit fairly from, economic and cultural resources
- * make truth, integrity, honesty and goodwill priorities in public and private life.

Relationships

We value others for themselves, not only for what they have or what they can do for us. We value relationships as fundamental to the development and fulfilment of ourselves and others, and to the good of the community.

On the basis of these values, we should:

- * respect others, including children
- * care for others and exercise goodwill in our dealings with them
- * show others they are valued
- * earn loyalty, trust and confidence
- * work cooperatively with others
- * respect the privacy and property of others
- * resolve disputes peacefully.

The self

We value ourselves as unique human beings capable of spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical growth and development.

On the basis of these values, we should:

- * develop an understanding of our own characters, strengths and weaknesses
- * develop self-respect and self-discipline
- * clarify the meaning and purpose in our lives and decide, on the basis of this, how we believe that our lives should be lived
- * make responsible use of our talents, rights and opportunities
- * strive, throughout life, for knowledge, wisdom and understanding
- * take responsibility, within our capabilities, for our own lives.