

Training for Children's Class Teachers and their Assistants

A 5 part Programme

Facilitator's Manual

Training Institute of Scotland

- 1. What we are trying to achieve?**
 - Our aims**
 - What it is to be a Bahá'í**
 - The aims of the UK Curriculum**

- 2. Spiritual Preparation**
 - The Spiritual Nature of the Child**
 - Spiritual preparation of the teacher**
 - Qualities of the teacher**
 - Relationship between the teacher and the children**
 - Divine assistance**

- 3. What are we to teach?**
 - Understanding and using the Curriculum:**
 - Attainment Targets, Strands and Key Stages**
 - Lessons from the Curriculum**
 - Broadening the scope of our lessons**

- 4. Achieving a Bahá'í Ethos**
 - Atmosphere of the classroom**
 - Attitude of the teacher to the children**
 - Creating a climate of empathy, cooperation and support.**
 - Behaviour management**
 - Example of the Holy Family**

- 5. Drawing up lesson plans**
 - Deriving lessons from the curriculum**
 - What to teach**
 - Achieving a broad balance**
 - Varying the approach**
 - Age-appropriateness**
 - Catering for different capacities**
 - Evaluation**
 - Homework**
 - Planning exercise**

- 6. Optional joint forward planning session**

How to use this material

This training programme is for teachers of children's classes and their helpers.

It is divided into 5 parts, of which parts 1, 2 & 4 are suited to everyone who is going to be working with the children, whether as a teacher or a helper. Parts 3 & 5 are specifically about planning lessons and may not suit those who wish only to help and not be involved with the planning.

Each individual programme is designed to take approx 2 hours, which includes time for a devotional at the beginning and at the end of each. There should be no need to rush. It could be used as a weekend course or as five separate evening sessions, e.g. running over five weeks using one evening a week.

A sixth session could be organised by the facilitator, during which all the participants could work together, using this training material to develop a forward plan for their next term.

Each participant is asked to have a ring binder for filing all the material, and a copy of the UK National Curriculum for the Bahá'í Education of Children: "Waiting upon the Blessed Beauty."

There is also available a syllabus for implementing the Bahá'í curriculum, produced by the Community Schools Service of the National Spiritual Assembly. It is a thematic approach called, "O God Guide Me", and would also be of help as a source of reference for participants.

You will need

- 1 A devotional programme to begin each part of the course, and a prayer or reading for the close of each.
- 2 Anything you feel would enhance the environment and atmosphere of the room being used. Flowers, music, lighting, refreshments, candles etc.
- 3 Some gentle music and a means of playing it, to enhance periods of quiet contemplation and reflection.
- 4 A clip-board and coloured pens.