

# **Training for Children's Class Teachers and their Assistants**

**A 5 part Programme**

**Participant'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 to 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 with two sessions of six and four hours, or as five separate evening sessions, e.g. running over five weeks using one evening a week.

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.

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