



‘As to thy question concerning training children: It is incumbent upon thee to nurture them from the breast of the love of God, to urge them towards spiritual matters, to turn unto God and to acquire good manners, best characteristics and praiseworthy virtues and qualities in the world of humanity, and to study sciences with the utmost diligence; so that they may become spiritual, heavenly and attracted to the fragrances of sanctity from their childhood and be reared in a religious, spiritual and heavenly training.’

Spiritual Education

In our present-day society, while there is a yearning for spiritual truth, peace and justice, there is also a trend towards self-gratification and materialism, and away from moral, spiritual principles of behaviour. Thus our society has developed an attitude of ‘anything goes’, but we are increasingly unhappy and discontented.

The Bahá’í Community sees a great need for moral education for children, to counteract the influences of materialism, and to enable them to live their lives as upright and principled individuals.

Spiritual truth is universal. One of the Bahá’í teachings is that all religions are from the same God, and so it is not surprising that all religions also have similar moral teachings. These form the basis of the moral education classes now being offered by the Bahá’í Community.

‘Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.’

Looking to the future

When we move on to the next life, all we take with us is our soul and the qualities with which we have been able to endow it. The best time in our lives for forming our character and developing spiritual qualities is when we are young, so it is essential that our children learn more than just academic subjects. Indeed it can be said that a child who has a good character and no academic schooling is happier and of more benefit to society than a child with great knowledge but poor character. The ideal is to have both, and these classes work towards creating that balance.

Promoting unity through fellowship

As part of cultivating a strong bond of friendship amongst participants, the course seeks to promote recreational, social and cultural activities.

Curriculum

The classes follow a course called the Virtues Guide, which is available for review by those considering the classes. Topics include honesty, love, trustworthiness and kindness. Another topic is race unity, which assists children to accept and learn to respect the diversity of the human race. Stories, music, games and art activities are used as part of the classes.

Children are the most important treasure a community can possess, for in them is the promise and the hope for the future. They carry the seeds of our future society, and are largely shaped by how we care for and nurture them.

Our children will face many problems and challenges in their lives. Therefore, we need to equip them with a strong sense of right and wrong, of justice and of principle. We can then be secure that they will have the ability to face these challenges.



Bahá'í
unite the hearts

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children's SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

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