

Bahá'í Children's Classes

IN STATE SCHOOLS

"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."

Bahá'u'lláh

What are Bahá'í classes and what do the children learn?

Bahá'ís see the young as the most precious treasure a community can possess. In them are the promise and guarantee of the future. Bahá'í Children's Classes are not classes of indoctrination. The children are instructed in the principles, teachings and basic beliefs of the Bahá'í Faith, and the emphasis is on learning to think, to reflect and to apply spiritual laws to the life of the individual and society.

Especially during the early years of childhood, great attention is given to the development of spiritual qualities such as love, compassion, justice, joy, trust, etc. and to those beliefs, habits and behaviours that constitute the essential attributes of a spiritual being.

The Bahá'í class teachers are trained in the curriculum which is based on the concept of the nobility of man. By the mere acceptance that each student is "a mine rich in gems of inestimable value", the teacher who is familiar with the nature of spiritual qualities and knows enough about human talents and capacities will search to discover these gems in



their students and actively help polish them.

Teachers are also fully aware of the importance of helping children develop habits and patterns of behaviour, such as maintaining a prayerful attitude, adhering to the Laws of God, seeking Knowledge, living in Harmony with others, being a good friend, devoting their life to service and engaging in consultation, all of which are in keeping with a Bahá'í way of life.

Students will also learn about and deepen their knowledge of the lives and teachings of God's Manifestations including:

Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad, the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. It is hoped that by learning about these Special Beings their awareness of God's infinite love for humanity will increase. These lessons seek to strengthen in the minds of the students the connection between the knowledge of God acquired through His Manifestations and the habits and patterns of conduct that were the focus of their earlier classes. They will learn that our relationship with God is ultimately one of love.



LOVE JOY HUMILITY KINDNESS FORGIVENESS PATIENCE HOPE FRIENDSHIP

WELCOME TO BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Who are the teachers and what is their training?

The teachers are volunteer members of the Bahá'í Community and friends from outside the Bahá'í Community who have received training in book 3 of the Ruhi Institute Curriculum, "Teaching Children's Classes".

All teachers will receive a formal confirmation of accreditation by the Bahá'í National Governing Body once they have received training in the *Child Protection Policy*, the *Code of Conduct*, *Guidelines For Working With Children And Young People* and hold a valid *Working With Children Check*.

What do Bahá'ís believe in?

Bahá'ís believe that throughout history, God has sent to humanity a

series of Divine Educators—known as Manifestations of God—whose teachings have provided the basis for the advancement of civilization and that Bahá'u'lláh is the latest of these Divine Educators. Bahá'u'lláh explained that the religions of the world come from the same Source and are in essence successive chapters of one religion from God.

Bahá'ís believe the crucial need facing humanity is to find a unifying vision of the future of society and of the nature and purpose of life. Such a vision unfolds in the writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

The teachings of Baha'u'llah are vast in their scope, exploring as they do such themes as the nature and purpose of Revelation, the inherent nobility of the human being and the need for universal peace—"the supreme goal of all mankind"—as well as explanations

of the social principles with which this peace is associated.

Among these principles are: the independent search after truth; the oneness of the entire human race, which is the pivotal principle of the Bahá'í Faith; the abolition of all forms of prejudice; the harmony which must exist between religion and science; the equality of men and women, the two wings on which the bird of humankind is able to soar; the introduction of compulsory education; the adoption of a universal auxiliary language; the abolition of the extremes of wealth and poverty.

Bahá'ís do not view these principles as mere statements of vague aspiration—they are understood as matters of immediate and practical concern for individuals, communities, and institutions alike.

Who to contact for further information:

Bahá'í Community of _____ Email _____

Teacher's Name _____ Teacher's Contact _____

Or visit our website: <http://bahai.org.au>

Direct link to Bahá'í SRE information - <http://bahai.org.au/index.php/what-bahais-do/building-vibrant-communities/spiritual-education-children/bahai-classes-in-state-schools/>

THE BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASSES

- Bahá'í Children's Classes are based on the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.
- The content of the Classes are aimed to contribute to the awakening and development of the spiritual nature of every child attending the classes, complementing the material and physical education provided by schools.
- In Bahá'í Children's Classes the development of spiritual attributes or virtues common to all the world's major religions are explored. In addition content of the program is aimed to develop



within the students the knowledge, skills, understandings and attitudes required to be world citizens and to embrace the equality of all peoples regardless of race, religion, nationality, class, or gender.

- Students participating in Bahá'í Children's Classes explore ways in which they may be able to contribute to the betterment of society and serve humanity.
- Bahá'í Children's Classes are open to all students regardless of their cultural or religious background subject to parental approval.

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