



Learning for Life & Moral Education

Why 'Learning for Life' underpins everything we do

With the recent shift in educational focus from statistics and data to emotional intelligence and social competencies, we feel that it is our responsibility as educators to equip our children with the tools for life to become 21st century learners and global citizens. We do not focus on a set of rules, but rather a wholesome, moral code by which we live. As an expanding community, the code binds us together under one common set of core values.

It is crucial that we allow pupils to learn from their mistakes, to have the perseverance to conquer their occasional failings and have the strength to tackle the next challenge that lies ahead. We strive to create a community with a soul and spirit that inspires.

The development of these core values starts when the children walk through our doors. Cranleighans continue to develop and display these skills to become highly effective, successful and fulfilled adults as they continue their journey beyond our walls.

It is commonly regarded that in order to learn successfully, a child must be happy, safe and secure in their environment. Our pastoral systems are designed to ensure this is the case. Our value-based code is embedded into every facet of school life from the planning of lessons, to assemblies and the warm welcome you will receive when you walk through our doors.

This is not a normal code, it's the "Cranleigh Code"; it is not only an initiative, it's a way of life. The ADEC inspection team 2016-17 noted the positive impact of our approach and wrote: "Students' achievement is rooted in their outstanding learning skills and personal development".

The UAE's Moral Education Programme

Tariq Mana S. Al Otaiba, Senior Associate, Office of Strategic Affairs, The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi's Court

What it means to be a citizen of the world has changed much in our time. People are connected; cultures intertwine and learn from one another. Information and news is instant and easily accessible. This has led to the emergence of a generation that will outshine any we have ever seen.

The burden of our expectations on this generation is heavy, and we who are now preparing the world for them to take over, have a duty to enable them to reach their potential.

We are no longer a civilisation that measures success through acumen, but are now looking to fulfilment, happiness, and mastery. Education has not changed much in most places, it needs to adapt, to evolve, and decision makers will need courage to push it to the level where our children have the environment they need and deserve.

In the summer of 2016, based on the directions of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, work started on introducing Moral Education in the UAE. The course had to be universal; appropriate to everyone, and it had to encourage rather than impose.

Through consultation with schools, parents, academics, experts, and officials, we developed four pillars: Character & Morality, The Individual & The Community, Civic Studies, and Cultural Studies. The units in these pillars do not impose ideas or ways of thinking, but rather they build in students the tools they need to come up with their own opinions on complex situations they find themselves in.

The course also champions the importance of culture, not just from the UAE, but from around the world. It provides students with lessons that encourage them to think about the deeper significance of our universal heritage.

To ensure that the program was thoroughly vetted before its full launch, 19 schools across the Emirates and across socioeconomic backgrounds were selected for a pilot program, among them Cranleigh.

Part of the culture of the Moral Education Program is collaboration, and schools were encouraged to share amongst themselves their best practices. We encouraged schools to design an implementation plan that ensured the learning outcomes were met.

"Cranleigh, through its existing curriculum, had already met most of the outcomes, and has become a champion of the course, presenting the school's unique approach and its findings from the pilot at the first annual Principals Symposium, and accepting requests from principals across the Country to visit and benchmark its approach."

Values and character based education is now internationally recognised as the future. It is a new way forward, for a new culture. Collaboration, open mindedness, acceptance and commitment from schools, parents, students, teachers and government will ensure that we successfully meet the challenge of our duty to generations to come.

THE CRANLEIGH CODE

We want our students as Cranleighans to demonstrate, develop and promote attributes and values that are required for an outstanding school and which are necessary for a positive and successful learning journey

The Cranleigh Code is referred to throughout the school day in lessons, extra-curricular activities and during tutor time. It should be embedded in everything that we do in and outside of the community

Be **C**reative, collaborative and courteous

Be **R**espectful, resilient and responsible

Have **A**cceptance and adaptability

Be **kiN**d and nurturing

Love to learn and listen carefully

Have **E**mpathy and enthusiasm

Be **I**nspirational and inclusive

Be **G**iving and have gratitude

Be **H**onest and helpful

Think **cA**refully before you act

Be **uN**ique and open-minded

Take **riS**ks and have fun