

A GUIDE TO THE SOVIET CURRICULUM:

What the Russian Child is Taught in School

JAMES MUCKLE

CROOM HELM
London • New York • Sydney

CONTENTS

Preface	vii
Acknowledgements	ix
1 THE SOVIET SCHOOL AND THE RUSSIAN TRADITION	1
2 THE CONTENT OF EDUCATION: WHAT AND WHY	10
3 "VOSPITANIE: MORAL, FAMILY AND CIVIC EDUCATION IN AND OUT OF CLASS	22
Content of moral education 22 - Acquaintance with the world around 29 - Ethics and psychology of family life 29 - Principles of Soviet government and law 31	
4 LABOUR EDUCATION. THE SCHOOL AND THE WORLD OF WORK	34
Polytechnical education 35 - Socially useful labour 36 - Production practice 36 - Labour training 37 - Professional orientation 40 - Technical drawing 42	
5 MATHEMATICAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE	45
Mathematics 45 - Principles of information science and computer technology 58	
6 THE MOTHER TONGUE. RUSSIAN AS NATIVE LANGUAGE	62
7 SCIENCE EDUCATION	80
Primary science 80 - Nature study 81 - Biology 82 - Physics 88 - Astronomy 95 - Chemistry 97	
8 ARTS EDUCATION	105
Aesthetic education 105 - Music 107 - Literature 114 - Art 123	

9	HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES	129
	History 129 - Social studies 141	
10	GEOGRAPHY	144
11	THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE	151
12	PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ELEMENTARY MILITARY TRAINING	159
	Physical education 159 - Elementary military training 168	
13	VARIATIONS ON THE MAIN THEME	171
	Handicap 171 - Republics 171 - Options 173 - Special profiles 173	
14	THE ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL AND THE "HIDDEN" CURRICULUM	175
15	THE DIRECTIONS OF CHANGE IN THE SOVIET CURRICULUM TODAY	183
	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GUIDE	190
	SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	195
	INDEX	206

TABLES

FIGURE 1	The Soviet education system (simplified)	3
FIGURE 2	Model curriculum for the general education school	19
FIGURE 3a	Standard performances for the award of certain marks in school and GIO	166
FIGURE 3b	Standard performances (continued)	167