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Money &Morals

Teaching honesty, integrity and social responsibility

Press Release - Thursday 19th May 2011

10,000 teenagers surveyed: 25% of teenagers say cheating in exams is OK, according to new survey

To coincide with the launch of a new website (www.moneyandmorals.org) for secondary schools to teach ethics as part of the curriculum, findings of a new survey show that 25% of teenagers think it is OK to cheat in exams. The 'Should Ethics be Taught?' survey commissioned by the *Money & Morals* Schools Programme, a project of an educational charity, is based on feedback from 10,000 13-15 year olds across England and Wales. It also reveals:

- 9% of teenagers say it is OK to shoplift
- 22% of teenagers believe there is nothing wrong in travelling without a ticket
- A rise in teenager's unethical behaviour in the last decade
- Girls are more likely to work hard, although boys are more ambitious
- Teenagers from broken homes are less likely to find a sense of purpose at work
- Students from professional backgrounds are more optimistic about the difference they can make to the world

The "Should Ethics be Taught?" survey was commissioned by the *Money & Morals* Schools Programme from statistics compiled by Professor Leslie J Francis of Warwick University. It provides a snapshot of the ethical values of 10,000 British teenagers in 2011 and compares the results a decade on from the first *Money & Morals* 'Teenage Values Today' survey in 2001. The new 2011 survey shows a consistent number of students who continue to believe unethical behaviour is acceptable and considers teenagers' attitudes towards the workplace, social responsibility and having a strong work ethic.

Sir Martin Sorrell CEO of WPP recommends the *Money & Morals* website: "It provides an invaluable toolkit to students by giving them an ethical framework and "moral compass" to use when starting their careers. It gives young people vital life-skills that will benefit them throughout their lives and encourage honesty, integrity and social responsibility."

The results indicate that 90% of teenagers believe a good work ethic is important, 82% are keen to "reach the top" in their careers and nearly three quarters believe that having a job provides a "sense of purpose".

Commenting on the survey, *Money & Morals* Chief Executive Lorraine Spector, said: "It is encouraging that employees of the future are committed to being a conscientious workforce and contributing to wider society. However, the consistency of the statistics from our two surveys a decade apart demonstrate a clear need for ethics to be taught as part of the education curriculum. Teaching *Money & Morals* provides vital skills for students entering the workplace. It is good for society, good for business and, most importantly, good for students."

Trustees: Sir Trevor Chinn CVO, Alan Tapnack, Rosalind Wright CB QC, Simon Bentley, David Dangoor, Michael Karp, Clive Marks OBE, Maurice Moses, Robert Perlman, Daniel Shakhani, Michael Teacher, **Patrons:** David Blitzer, Tim Bolot, David Cohen, Alan Goldman, Aron Freedman, Sir John Ritblat, Ashley Rogoff, Michael Seal, Sir Martin Sorrell, Gregory Wagner **Chief Executive:** Lorraine Spector

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Money & Morals is a project of JABE Registered Charity No. 1038453

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About Money & Morals

The *Money & Morals* Schools Programme website provides educational materials to secondary schools to teach honesty, integrity and social responsibility as part of their subject teaching, with no extra preparation or teaching time required. Students are presented with real life dilemma case studies to debate in class with suggested ethical perspectives for teachers and online assessments for homework. *Money & Morals* has been used in its paperback version in almost 700 secondary schools nationwide and equips students with the values and skills they require to make ethical decision when they enter the workplace.

Additional quotes

“The teaching of *Money & Morals* within schools will go a long way to reinforce the moral fabric of society and prevent the excesses within the financial world seen so starkly in the causes of the credit crunch.” *Alan Tapnack, Investec Bank Plc*

“*Money & Morals* is a splendid programme which will increase young peoples’ knowledge and understanding of good ethical business practice in everyday situations. The future businessman and woman, as well as consumers and customers – which means everybody – will be able to benefit.” *Rosalind Wright, Former Director, The Serious Fraud Office*

Further information

For further information about Money & Morals, please contact Zara Newman, Education Director.

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