



LIFE Education

Inspiring the next generation to value all human life from beginning to end

LIFE Education - Informing and equipping the next generation

Every year LIFE Education Officers speak to thousands of young people.

LIFE's core value is that every human individual is equally valuable from fertilisation, until natural death. Our positions on abortion, embryo technology, relationships and euthanasia are shaped by this principle, and that is the framework in which we approach discussion on those issues. We present up-to-date, relevant information in a coherent and challenging framework, using interactive presentations to stimulate debate, reflection and exploration of these key issues.

We are a non-religious charity and we do not use religious ideas in our presentations: our arguments are grounded in principles to which anyone can subscribe and ideas of justice, equality, democracy and human rights.

Every year, our team speak to thousands of students nationwide.



Ideally, our Education Officers would speak to whole year groups, but talks can be tailored to any class size. Talks may be modified depending on the students' needs. A typical presentation/ workshop will last between 50 minutes and 1 hour (usually a single lesson).

The ethical issues discussed by our speakers cover a wide variety of subjects from the National Curriculum including: Biology, Philosophy, PSHE, Politics, Critical Thinking and Religious Studies.

As such, schools often find these sessions a useful tool both to introduce a new topic and as revision prior to exams.



Abortion

The majority of our school talks are on the subject of abortion. Abortion is an emotive and serious moral issue and we discuss LIFE's opposition to it with tact, compassion and sensitivity. We never use disturbing images as a matter of policy. Using real stories and case studies, as well as a variety of other resources, we aim to encourage full and open debate.

Our Education Officers inform pupils about LIFE's services supporting women and young families with unplanned pregnancies

We cover:

- When life begins
- The development of the unborn child
- Abortion for disability
- Whether there are limits to 'a right to choose'
- UK abortion law
- Facts and figures about abortion
- The hard questions from a pro-life perspective

Relationships and Sex – promoting stable relationships and responsible attitudes

An increasingly popular aspect of our educational work is our Relationships and Sex Education programmes. Young people face many challenges; not just an epidemic of STIs and high teenage pregnancy rates, but an increasingly sexualised culture in which a person's worth is often linked to their perceived sexual desirability.

Our Education Officers help teenagers negotiate the challenges with integrity, self-respect and courage.

We encourage pupils to think carefully and tackle questions that they may not encounter elsewhere, such as:-

- What do we/ should we look for in positive, healthy relationships?

- What attitudes to sex do we see around us?
- What are the emotional, social and medical risks and dangers of premature or casual sexual activity?

Our aim is that students learn:

- Self-respect and respect for others.
- The advantages of saved sex and the value of solid friendships.
- The importance of good communication, shared interests, mutual respect, honesty and fidelity in relationships.
- How to say 'no' to unwanted sexual activity and avoid difficult situations.

Assisted reproduction

Recent scientific advances have opened up a whole new field of moral questions about how far we should go in assisted reproduction, in using embryos for research and in 'designing' babies.

LIFE school talks take a close look at these moral questions.

Talks may discuss:

- The potential problems with various forms of modern fertility treatments
- Whether it is right to destroy embryos to obtain stem cells
- How far we should go in manipulating or screening human embryos to create "perfect" or "healthy" adults
- Whether the creation of "saviour siblings" to provide genetically compatible replacement organs for family members can ever be justified.

Our aim is that pupils are enabled to think carefully and critically about the ethical dilemmas surrounding the creation of early human life in the laboratory, and particularly that they come to understand the pro-life perspective on these issues.

Life before Birth

Life before birth talks are delivered to students in year 6 and upwards. They provide factual information about the amazing development of the baby inside the womb. We do not mention abortion or discuss any other controversial topics. The talks, which are fully illustrated and interactive, are purely aimed at showing pupils the wonder of new life.

Euthanasia

This talk is extremely topical as there is a lot of public debate about changing the law to allow for assisted suicide. The talk examines:

- Pro-euthanasia arguments and their flaws.
- The practical risks involved in legalised euthanasia in any form.
- The concerns of people who would be directly affected i.e. the elderly, the sick and the disabled.
- Palliative Care and its key objectives
- Real stories and case studies

The talk also shows why medical professionals and those involved in the care of vulnerable people have consistently been opposed to any change in the law to allow for assisted suicide or euthanasia.

What is a LIFE Conference?

LIFE conferences are half day events covering a variety of topics and can be adapted to suit the requirements of the school.

Interactive presentations using multi-media resources are followed by workshops where students have the chance to explore and discuss their own views on the issues raised during the session.

The Future

Our work in schools is a vital part of our mission and our aim is to engage the next generation in issues that affect them and encourage debate on wider societal issues. We want every student to hear and understand the pro-life arguments and to recognise their own unique human dignity and those of others.



The itinerary for a typical half-day conference might look something like this...

9am

Welcome and
introduction to the day

9.05am

Life before Birth
presentation and
workshop activity

10.00am

Abortion presentation
and workshop activity

11.10am

Break

11.25am

Relationships
presentation

12.15pm

Q&A

12.25pm

Evaluations

12.35pm

Short presentation on
the work of LIFE

12.45pm

Close



To book a talk please visit www.lifecharity.org.uk/education

Briefing sheets and other education resources can be downloaded free at

www.lifecharity.org.uk/education

To keep up-to-date with all the issues subscribe to LIFE eNews by emailing: enews@lifecharity.org.uk

To book a talk



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LIFE is the trading name of LIFE 2009 which is a limited company registered in England and Wales (number 06786752), a registered charity (number 1128355) and a charity Registered in Scotland (number SCO41329) whose registered office is at LIFE House, 1 Mill Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1ES.

This leaflet was produced April 2015 and supersedes all previous leaflets.