



LIFE Education

**Informing and equipping
the next generation**

LIFE Education - Informing and equipping the next generation

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

LIFE's core value is that every human individual is equally valuable from fertilisation, the very beginning of their life. 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 these 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 humanist principles to which anyone can subscribe and ideas of justice, equality, democracy and human rights.

Every year, our EOs come into contact with more than 30,000 students nationwide.





Abortion

The majority of our school talks are on the subject of abortion. Abortion is an emotive and complex moral issue and we discuss it with tact, compassion and sensitivity. We never lecture pupils or use disturbing images (we never use such images as a matter of policy). Our aim is to encourage full and open debate.

Our EOs inform pupils about LIFE's services supporting women and young families with unplanned pregnancies and we show the development of the unborn child. We discuss abortion for disability and eugenics, when life begins and whether there are limits to "a right to choose". We tackle 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 programmes. In the digital age, pupils are exposed to more information than ever about this topic, and not all of it is helpful. Young people face many challenges and threats; 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 EOs help teenagers navigate the maze of sexuality with integrity, self-respect and courage.

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

- What makes us happy? What do we look for and what should we look for in relationships?

- What attitudes to sex do we see around us? From where do we gain information about sex? How do we decide our own views?
- Are these attitudes healthy? Will they help us to develop strong, lasting, stable relationships?
- What are the emotional, social and medical risks and dangers of premature or casual sexual activity?

Our aim is that students learn...

- How to be happy and build 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, designer babies and the embryonic stem cell debate

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

Our school talks discuss embryo research – with a particular focus on

the debate over the extraction of stem cells from embryos – and artificial reproductive technologies such as IVF. We also aim to introduce pupils to some of the potential ethical problems with the creation and manipulation of early human life in the laboratory.

Life before Birth

Life before Birth talks are aimed at Year 6 pupils to give them information about the beginning of human life and the development of the unborn child. 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 and are received extremely well.

Euthanasia

We have traditionally tended to focus on beginning-of-life issues. However, we have broadened our focus to look at other public debates where the value of human life is part of the discussion, and so our speakers also offer talks on euthanasia. We share the view of organisations such as the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nurses, Age UK and the Disability Rights Commission that euthanasia is the wrong answer to the predicament of people who are suffering unbearably. However, as with all our talks, debate is encouraged.

What is a LIFE Conference?

LIFE Conferences are given to Year 10 upwards to complement the subjects studied as part of the National Curriculum.

The ethical issues covered at LIFE conferences cut across a wide variety of curriculum areas: from biology to philosophy and from PSHE to politics. We often find that schools are grateful that we can provide expertise in issues which can be uncomfortable or daunting to discuss in engaging and interactive sessions.

LIFE conferences are half-day events 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 student fact packs 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.

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