



# LIFE Education

Informing and equipping  
the next generation

**Life**   
LOVING LIFE, OFFERING HOPE

Registered National Charity No. 1128355

# LIFE Education

## Informing and equipping the next generation

Every year LIFE speaks to thousands of young people about issues that matter to them and impact upon their lives. Many years of experience have taught us that young people require information that is relevant, accurate and delivered in an engaging manner that allows them to think for themselves. We are proud of young people and feel privileged to work with them as we explore some very sensitive issues that touch upon crucial matters of life and death.

This booklet aims to introduce the reader to the ethos of LIFE's educational work and also to give some idea of the everyday reality of our work in schools.

The last forty years have seen dramatic social changes in Britain. Some of these have been good; others less so. What cannot be denied is that young people in particular are facing huge challenges. One of the most pressing of these is the widespread confusion about morality, and an unprecedented sexualisation of children and young people.

At LIFE, we strive to build a whole new culture, and we find that it is young people who are most willing to think clearly and carefully about what we have to say. Their thinking is not constrained by preconceptions and outdated slogans. They are willing to go against the grain!

What LIFE Education sets out to do is to present up-to-date, relevant information in a coherent and challenging framework, using interactive presentations to stimulate debate. Our professional Education officers are dynamic and well-informed, and in touch with the aspirations and concerns of young people. Our Education Officers are co-ordinated by the Director of Education, who is based at LIFE Head Office in Leamington Spa, Warks.

We visit schools all over the country, engaging with students and debating and discussing a huge variety of subjects, from abortion and embryo research to euthanasia and reproductive technologies. 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.

“Working for LIFE Education gives me the opportunity to speak to large numbers of students of different ages and from different backgrounds. It is a truly rewarding experience to discuss a wide variety of topics with these students, ranging from early human development to sex and relationships. They enjoy expressing their opinions and have a remarkable capacity to challenge the society they live in.

By giving the students information about these issues and giving them the opportunity to question us, we hope to help them form their opinions based on facts and to encourage them to recognise the right to life of every human being from fertilisation onwards.

Through our relationships work we aim to build up the students’ confidence and self esteem, enabling them to overcome media and peer pressure in order to improve their ability to make safe, healthy choices.

The positive response we receive, from both students and teachers, makes me very proud to be part of LIFE’s Education team.”

Maria Macgregor  
LIFE Education Officer



# Sex and Relationships – promoting stable relationships, responsible attitudes and real love

An increasingly popular aspect of our educational work is our Sex and Relationships programme. There is a lot of information on this subject floating around, and not all of it is helpful. Young people face many challenges and threats that young people twenty or thirty years ago did not, in general, need to worry about; not just an epidemic of STIs, but an ever more sexualised culture in which a person's worth as an individual is increasingly linked to their perceived sexual desirability.

What our speakers try to do is help teenagers to navigate the maze of adolescent sexuality with integrity, self-respect and courage. We put forward a different vision of sexual relationships. Our presentations are not didactic; instead, we encourage pupils to think carefully about the issues, including the unique value of marriage, and tackle questions that they will not come across anywhere else.

## Getting started

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

## Critical thinking

- 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?

## The sexual minefield

- What is the meaning of human sexuality? Why is sex more than just a physical act?
- What are the risks, emotional, social and medical, of promiscuous or casual sexual activity? We need to know the cold hard facts about STIs and pregnancy.
- Sex is more than just a physical act. "There is no contraceptive for a broken heart".
- How do we build lasting relationships that don't depend simply on sex?

## A new approach

- Learning to be happy and building self-esteem. Promoting saved sex and the value of solid friendships.
- Beyond sex – shared interests, mutual respect, honesty and fidelity.
- How to say "no"; how to avoid difficult situations, and how to communicate with your partner.

Our feedback suggests that both pupils and teachers find our presentations informative, engaging and useful:

"A really upbeat day, compact but delivered in a fresh and interesting way to keep attention. Really good!"

15 year old student, London

# Abortion

The majority of our school talks are on the subject of abortion. Abortion is an emotive and complex moral issue, and has to be tackled with tact, compassion and sensitivity. Our speakers are not there to lecture pupils, or shock them with grisly images (as a matter of policy, we never use such images) but to encourage full and open debate, and inform them about the full extent of LIFE's services to young families and women with unplanned

pregnancies. We show the development of the unborn child. We talk about eugenics and abortion for disability; about when life begins; about whether there can ever be "a right to choose" when human life is at stake. We tackle the hard questions, such as abortion after rape.

We welcome full and vigorous debate.

# Assisted reproduction and embryo experimentation

Advances in embryology over the last 30 years have opened up a whole new field of moral questions about how far we can and should go in using embryos for research. LIFE's firm commitment to the protection of human life from the moment of fertilisation gives us a special insight into these issues. Our school talks discuss embryo research –

with a particular focus on contemporary debates in the field of embryonic stem cells – and reproductive technologies, such as IVF. We give a full and clear scientific explanation of the relevant processes, and then try to bring out some of the ethical problems e.g. is it acceptable to dispose of "genetically inadequate" embryos before implantation?

# Life before Birth

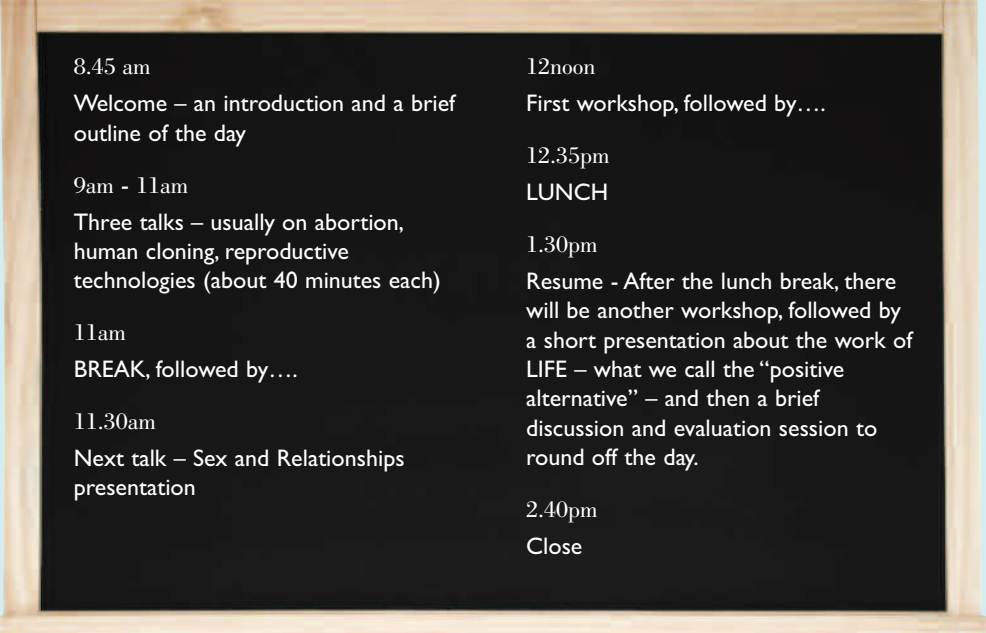
Life Before Birth talks are aimed at Year 6 children. They are designed to give them information about the beginning of human life and the development of the unborn child. We do not mention abortion or discuss any other

controversial topics. The talks, which are fully illustrated and interactive, are purely aimed at showing youngsters the wonder of new life and are received extremely well.

# What is a LIFE Conference?

LIFE Conferences are given to either Year 10 or Year 12 pupils and are designed to complement the subjects studied by pupils 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 particularly grateful that we tackle the “difficult” aspect of sex and relationships education; teaching pupils about relationships, self-esteem and decision-making etc. rather than the biological mechanics, which are taught as part of science.

LIFE conferences last either a full day or half a day, and can be adapted to suit the requirements of the school. Interactive presentations using multi-media resources are followed by workshops, when students have a chance to explore and discuss their own views and ideas on the issues raised during the day. A typical day-long conference might look something like this:



8.45 am	12noon
Welcome – an introduction and a brief outline of the day	First workshop, followed by...
9am - 11am	12.35pm
Three talks – usually on abortion, human cloning, reproductive technologies (about 40 minutes each)	<b>LUNCH</b>
11am	1.30pm
<b>BREAK</b> , followed by...	Resume - After the lunch break, there will be another workshop, followed by a short presentation about the work of LIFE – what we call the “positive alternative” – and then a brief discussion and evaluation session to round off the day.
11.30am	2.40pm
Next talk – Sex and Relationships presentation	<b>Close</b>

# LIFE Education's role in public policy

Most of LIFE's staff and resources are quite rightly devoted to Education and Caring.

Nonetheless, there is also a need to publicise and promote LIFE's services and our vision, mission and values, and to educate and inform the general public, as well as schoolchildren. Therefore, we do involve ourselves in the public debate on the issues that concern us. This involvement takes many forms: writing letters and articles for the media, issuing press releases and giving interviews and comment

to the media when appropriate. In addition, LIFE is affiliated to high-profile national coalitions such as the anti-euthanasia Care Not Killing Alliance ([www.carenotkilling.org.uk](http://www.carenotkilling.org.uk)) and the Alive and Kicking Campaign ([www.aliveandkickingcampaign.org](http://www.aliveandkickingcampaign.org)), which is seeking reform of the abortion law, particularly those parts of the law which allow for the eugenic abortion of disabled unborn children right up to birth.

## The future: onwards and upwards

Our work in schools is a vital part of our mission and is a key component of our long-term strategy to care for women, uphold human dignity and promote respect for life. Our ultimate aim is to reach every child and young person in Britain with our uplifting, empowering and optimistic pro-life message. We want every child to recognise their own unique human dignity and be willing to stand up for the vulnerable and the voiceless.

# More Information

LIFE Education publishes a number of pamphlets and leaflets about various aspects of our mission and services. These are available, by post, from LIFE Head Office (see address below). You can access these and other materials on our website: [www.lifecharity.org.uk](http://www.lifecharity.org.uk)

National Head Office:  
LIFE House, 1 Mill Street  
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1ES

National Helpline: 0800 915 4600  
Text-to-talk: 07786 200330

Tel: 01926 421587 Fax: 01926 336497  
Email: [info@lifecharity.org.uk](mailto:info@lifecharity.org.uk)

For more information  
visit [www.lifecharity.org.uk](http://www.lifecharity.org.uk)

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This leaflet can be made available in other formats or languages if required, e.g. large print or tape.

Ta ulotka może być udostępniony w innych formatach lub językach, jeżeli jest to wymagane, np. duży druk lub taśma.

यदि आवश्यकता हो, तो सूचना पत्र .

अन्य स्वरूपों या भाषाओं में भी उपलब्ध करवाएँ जा सकते हैं, जैसे बड़ा प्रिंट या टेप।

چھاپے کے بڑے حروف یا ٹیپ کی شکل میں بھی فراہم  
اس پرچے کو حسب ضرورت دوسری شکلوں یا زبانوں مثلاً .  
کیا جا سکتا ہے۔

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