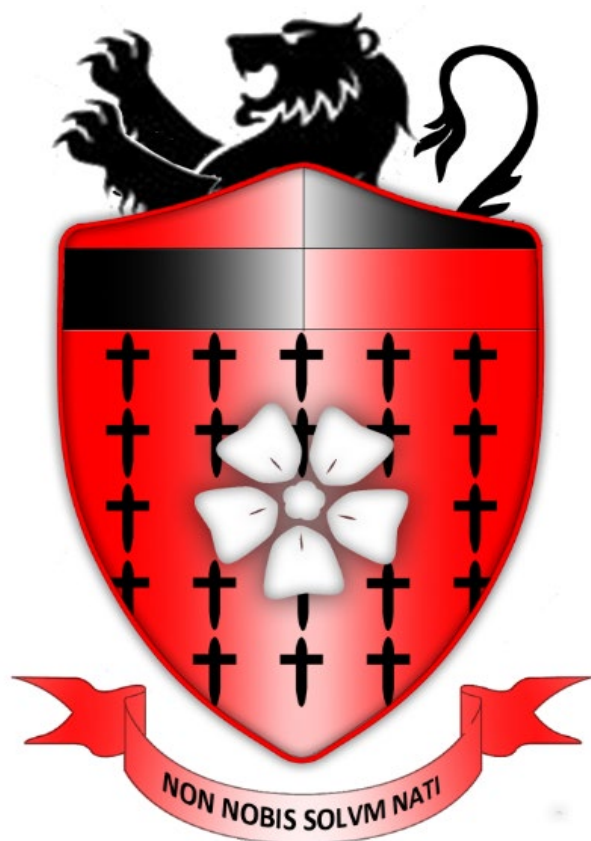


Hornsea School & Language College



Life Studies Policy

Last Reviewed:	Date: October 2025	By: Ella Rowbotham
Approved by:	Headteacher: 26.11.25	Governing Body: 26.11.25
Date of Next Review:	November 2026	

Life Studies Policy Statement

Rationale

Life Studies is taught across the School from Years 7 – 11 during Period 3 on a Monday. Students follow a pre-planned curriculum, which include topics such as mental health, RSE, careers, wider world, money management and E-safety.

Life Studies fulfils the school's statutory duties to provide Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), Careers Education in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks, and Health Education. It also includes non-statutory elements such as enterprise and wider world education to enrich students' personal development.

Related Policies and Procedures

- Enterprise Policy
- Careers Education and Guidance (CEIAG) Policy
- Sex Education and Relationship Policy

The Aims of Life Studies

- To provide opportunities for all pupils to learn, achieve and develop self-confidence, self-worth and self-esteem
- Provide essential knowledge, skills and understanding relating to a pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life
- To develop skills relating to problem solving, critical analysis and conflict resolution to help pupils make independent and informed decisions
- To develop the ability to assimilate knowledge, to study independently and to have a positive attitude towards lifelong learning
- To introduce and develop an understanding of democratic processes and the implications of working together and sharing
- To encourage students to take responsibility for the choices and decisions related to their career development
- To promote responsible attitudes towards the maintenance of good health through an understanding of the factors contributing to healthy lifestyles
- To provide the opportunity for exploration of values and attitudes and the growth of skills necessary to build relationships, communicate and make decisions
- To encourage students to develop self-awareness and skills in social interaction while respecting the attitudes beliefs of others in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society

Aspects of PSHE

Aspects of PSHE education are taught within the Life Studies framework in Years 7-11.

Aims:

- To give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to play an effective role in society at local, national and international level
- To help pupils become informed, thoughtful and responsible Citizens who are aware of their duties and rights
- To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development making them more self-confident and responsible both in and beyond the classroom
- To encourage pupils to play a helpful part in the life of Hornsea School the local communities and the wider world
- To teach pupils about the economy, the legal system and democratic institutions and values

- To encourage respect for different national, religious and ethnic identities
- To develop pupils' ability to reflect on issues and take part in discussions and make informed and responsible decisions

The Delivery of Life Studies

Life Studies is delivered during a single timetabled period each week. Throughout the year there are also some 'deep learning' days when visitors come into school to do presentations or via video link. Responsibility for the planning of Life Studies lies with the Head of Life Studies working alongside Nichola Ashton for careers guidance. Life Studies teachers then deliver the content.

Curriculum teams meet each term to discuss upcoming topics and collaborate on resources. All work that is planned for Life Studies is detailed on a scheme of work which is updated each year. In addition to this all lessons are fully resourced via a power point and a student workbook which contains all of the student activities. It is the expectation that Life Studies teachers then deliver their Life Studies lessons in a way which is appropriate for their learners.

When possible, whole school activity days take place for students relating to key topics. We welcome the involvement of outside support agencies in the delivery of Life Studies as well as guest speakers and visiting groups.

The school values parental engagement in Life Studies and ensures transparency by publishing curriculum overviews on the school website. Parents and carers are invited to discuss the content of the Life Studies resources and review materials on request.

Curriculum areas

Subject areas contribute to the personal and social development of students through their Teaching and Learning Policy and the content of their subject. Life Studies is promoted by developing a sense of achievement, confidence and competence in all subject areas and focusing, where appropriate, on issues directly related to Life Studies.

School Ethos

We can assist personal and social development by promoting the school's aims, values and ethos, through reinforcing the school's expectations for learning. Broadening student's horizons by delivering innovative topics for all students differentiated appropriately for each year groups. Life Studies is inclusive of all pupils. Lessons and topics are differentiated to ensure accessibility for pupils with SEND and reflect the diversity of our community, promoting respect for all protected characteristics.

Student Support

We work closely alongside the student support to plan topics which are relevant and meet the needs of our students. We also link with student support on topics of a sensitive nature and ensure that any students directly affected by that topic are offered an alternative working environment. All aspects of Life Studies contribute to the safeguarding culture of the school by teaching pupils how to recognise and report concerns, develop protective behaviours and understand consent, boundaries, and online safety. Staff are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities when delivering sensitive content.

Work Experience

The experience of work is enhanced by school visits to companies, 'mock' interviews by employers who come in to do this, and by work experience opportunities in Year 10. This is delivered by our careers guidance leader Nichola Ashton

Extra Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities offer many opportunities for personal and social development. We aim to deliver whole school activity days and outside guest speakers to enhance students understanding of topics covered within Life Studies, when possible, Life studies teachers attend these sessions with their class to help upskill and improve staff confidence in the delivery of topics which are outside of their specialism.

Life Studies - Teaching and Learning Policy and Philosophy

- All students have the right to work and learn in a safe, calm, purposeful, stimulating environment which is free from stress and anxiety
- We aim to be a creative learning community where everyone is valued equally, where reflection is encouraged, achievements are celebrated and we promote a love of lifelong learning
- Successful teaching and learning requires careful planning based upon clear objectives, which are shared with students
- A variety of strategies will be required for differentiation so that the curriculum is accessible and learning experiences meet the needs and challenge all students
- Students need to know expected learning outcomes and have the resources available to support their learning
- Students are involved in planning and reviewing their work
- Effective learning involves an active partnership between pupil and teacher and should provide a balance between content and process
- Lessons should be as proactive as possible and draw upon the full range of teaching methods
- Pupils will be presented with situations in which they have to work with others, to analyze information, to consider moral and social dilemmas and to make informed choices and decisions

Recognising Achievement

Assessment within Life Studies is formative and reflective, focusing on progress in knowledge, attitudes and skills. Teachers use student self-assessments, workbook tasks, and discussion-based evaluations to monitor understanding. It is particularly important in Life Studies that all forms of achievement are recognised and celebrated. This may include:

- Achievement of work in the lesson
- Working well with others
- Making improvements in learning
- Rising to a challenge
- Leading others
- Helping others

Achievement may be recognised and celebrated in the following ways:

- Through effective use of PD
- Praise and positive comments
- Work displayed in classrooms and other areas of the school

- Feedback given on half termly assessments
- EduLink home recognising outstanding work
- Certificates and prizes in recognition of achievements in particular topic areas e.g. Dragons Den

Monitoring, Evaluation and Staff Training

The Head of Life Studies oversees the quality and consistency of delivery through lesson observations, student voice, and staff feedback. Curriculum impact is reviewed annually and adapted to reflect national guidance and emerging local safeguarding issues. All Life Studies teachers receive CPD and safeguarding updates relevant to PSHE delivery.

Conclusion

The aim of Life Studies at Hornsea School is to enable effective and high quality delivery of PSHE across KS3 and KS4. It ensures that all statutory requirements are met and are delivered in a consistent manner and that all students have access to accurate and up to date information on a range of topics. Life Studies will enable students to learn about the wider world and touch on taboo issues in a safe environment; it enables students to ask questions and to be signposted to reliable and appropriate agencies and information.