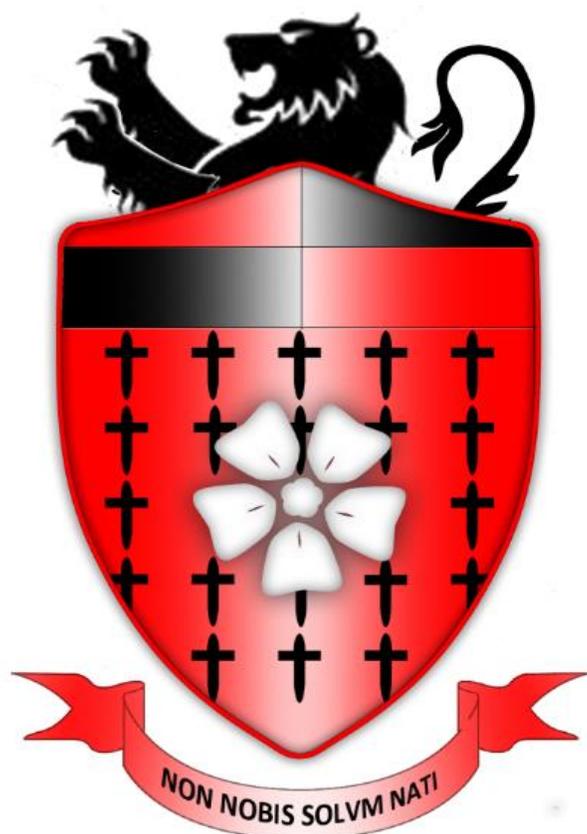


# Hornsea School & Language College



## Life Studies Policy

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## **Life Studies Policy Statement**

### **Rationale**

Life Studies is taught across the School from Years 7 – 11 in an hour's lesson Period 1 on a Monday. Students follow a structured plan of a topic each half term covering, Mental Health, Sex Education and Healthy Relationships, Careers, Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens, Current Affairs and How to Survive in the Real World. Life Studies covers all aspects of personal, social, health and economic education as well as careers, guidance, SRE, enterprise education and aspects of citizenship.

### **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 Citizenship**

Aspects of citizenship 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 with current restrictions permitting. Responsibility for the planning and delivery of Life Studies lies with the Co-Heads of Life Studies (Ella Rowbotham and Naomi Markham), working alongside Sally Richardson for careers guidance and together with progress leaders and the year teams to deliver Life Studies successfully.

Time is allocated to discuss Life Studies at year team meetings, once co-heads send out structured week by week lesson plans to all staff. The half termly review from staff and students of the key topics aids our understanding and the opportunity for the development and refinement of the Life Studies curriculum.

The group tutor is a contributor to the personal development of students both in their pastoral role and as the teacher of Life Studies to their form group. We have developed Life Studies by introducing a scheme of work for each topic for every year group laid out on a week by week plan. The group tutor then can deliver this to the class within Life Studies in a way, which is appropriate and stimulating, relating to the needs of their students. However, this is all set from the Co-Heads of Life Studies so the work is there to be delivered by staff on a weekly basis, to be differentiated to the needs of their students.

When possible, we set up whole school activity days for students relating to key topics such as the 'Prison Me! No Way!' and E-Safety event. We welcome the involvement of outside support agencies in the delivery of Life Studies as well as guest speakers and visiting groups. Moreover, we include other students within school to deliver educational performances to tutor groups.

The following areas offer a variety of opportunities for the effective delivery of Life Studies:

### **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 to the various year groups.

### **Student Support**

We work closely alongside the student support team when delivering topics to enable student's welfare from the topics is a main priority for when delivering key topics.

## **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 Sally Richardson.

## **Parents Evening**

Consultation Evenings provide an important opportunity for discussion about the personal and social development of pupils – reflecting on end of term assessments that students complete at the end of every topic giving them a RAG rated grade, enabling parents an understanding and reflection of how their child is progressing in Life Studies.

## **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 within Life Studies, making this relevant and new.

## **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**

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
- Initiative
- Presenting students work around the school
- Assemblies delivered by students to enhance progress

Achievement may be recognised and celebrated in the following ways:

- Praise and positive comments frequently given
- Work displayed in classrooms and other areas of the school
- Performance of work in class or in an assembly
- Positive written feedback on pieces of work
- Notes written in diaries
- Letters to parents/carers
- Telephone calls home
- Individuals congratulated on the Year Groups Achievement Board/Presentation Evenings.

## **Conclusion**

The aim of Life Studies at Hornsea School is to allow all pupils regardless of ability to contribute to Society when reaching adult life by learning about innovative, relevant topics that will aid their understanding of the outside world.