



# Coram Life Education

## Evaluation of Coram Life Education in Wessex and Thames Valley

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September 2020 – August 2021



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### **1 Summary**

Life Education Wessex and Thames Valley helps children in Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and East Swindon make healthy choices. We are a recognised Delivery Partner of the UK's leading health and drug education programme, Coram Life Education.

Coram Life Education and its Delivery Partners reach about 400 000 children every year in around 2000 schools, teaching life skills through fun, interactive and age-specific activities. Over 45 000 teachers subscribe to our online 'SCARF' resources, supporting their year-round PSHE provision.

Coram Life Education helps children make healthy choices by working with schools to support and contribute to their existing provision for PSHE, including children's health and well-being, behaviour and safety. This report presents the findings of an online questionnaire-based evaluation for the Coram Life Education programme based in the **Life Education Wessex and Thames Valley** area. It presents findings from data collected from **29/09/2020** to **28/07/2021**, during which period school visits from 04/01/2021 to 12/03/2021 were suspended due to Covid-19 school closures. As a result of enforced changes to our previous delivery methods and disruption to children's easy access to IT equipment, due to Covid-19 restrictions, school staff but not children were asked to participate in evaluation during the 2020/2021 school year. **93 members of school staff** took part in the online evaluation during this period.

### **2 Background**

Coram Life Education contributes to the PSHE curriculum. Coram Life Education educators visit children, either in their own classrooms or via online workshops, and facilitate sessions working towards key learning outcomes, that are individual to each age group. Educators use a life-skills approach, designed to increase children's knowledge, develop skills and confidence, explore attitudes and clarify values. These three inter-related strands work together to support children in making informed health choices. Coram Life Education provides a number of different programmes to suit the needs of different schools and children, in discussion with the school (see references for Coram Life Education's Programme Overview and Learning Outcomes). In addition to education programmes, 'SCARF' online resources provide teachers with a year-round framework of lesson plans, planning and assessment tools to embed and enhance wellbeing across the school.

Coram Life Education programmes are strongly evidence-based and the organisation was one of the first to achieve the Department of Health's Information Standard, a quality mark awarded for the production of accurate, credible and evidence-based health and social care information for the public. Coram Life Education supports schools in delivering recommended best practice in health and drug education as well

as helping schools to meet key criteria of the Ofsted Inspection Framework. Coram Life Education has been delivered within Wessex and Thames Valley for 30 years.

Coram Life Education, with the help of Coram's Policy and Research team, have designed outcomes-based questionnaires, to provide evidence of the impact of facilitators' work within schools. The questionnaires were completed using online survey software after each session. This report provides the findings of data collected using these tools in the 2020-2021 school year.

### **3 CLE in Wessex and Thames Valley schools**

In Wessex and Thames Valley schools 93 members of school staff, including class teachers, teaching assistants, PSHE coordinators and head teachers, completed a questionnaire about how the sessions were delivered and the value of the programme to their schools.

### **4 Benefits of Coram Life Education to schools in the Wessex and Thames Valley area**

School staff (teachers, teaching assistants, PSHE coordinators and head teachers) were asked a series of questions in relation to the impact of CLE's PSHE education and SCARF online resources (if applicable):

83% of staff agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I am more confident to deliver wellbeing and PSHE education."

88% of staff agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I have a deeper knowledge of my pupils' understanding of issues and skills relating to their health and wellbeing (including behaviour, safety and mental health)."

77% of staff agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "Observing CLE's teaching and learning strategies has enabled me to integrate their approach into my teaching practice."

86% of staff agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "CLE and/or SCARF has improved PSHE teaching in my school."

87% of staff agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "SCARF is, or will become, an essential part of our school's PSHE, mental health and wellbeing programme."

92% of staff agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "SCARF is easy to access and implement in the school."

86% of staff thought that CLE and SCARF are very important or important in their school in providing evidence on how it is meeting Ofsted requirements in relation to personal development, behaviour and welfare.

## 5 Satisfaction with the Coram Life Education programme

### Staff's satisfaction with Coram Life Education

100% of school staff (teachers, teaching assistants, PSHE coordinators and head teachers) were either very satisfied or satisfied with Life Education's work at their school.

98% of staff agreed that the CLE sessions were well delivered.

99% of staff agreed that the quality of the content in CLE sessions and SCARF materials were appropriate to the class.

99% of staff agreed that CLE and SCARF content met children's needs.

100% of staff said that they would recommend our services to another school.

Comments from staff included:

*It's great to have new faces in school and to have experts delivering learning to children.*

*Session for Year 2 was excellent - very clearly & positively delivered - the children's enjoyment & understanding was evident. The way the resources have been modified in the absence of the bus has been really creative and well-thought out. We're really looking forward to using SCARF as our new PHSE curriculum. Thank you!*

*Perfectly pitched workshop, children engaged. Children's worries/questions dealt with sensitively in a safe and caring environment. All done in a friendly and professional manner.*

*As with the workshop, perfect pitch and balance. Friendly clear resources, for busy teachers all lesson resources are together and easily accessible. Children love the SCARF analogy and I love teaching the lessons. Any contact I have with Coram Life is dealt with quickly and fully, as PSHE lead I feel very supported and able to support our teachers in turn. Thank you.*

*Very suited to the children's current understanding and needs. Interactive and accessible. They loved the characters!*

*Plans and ideas are so relevant, effective and easy-to-use.*

*The visitor was friendly and engaged with the children well. The pace was good and all the children had plenty of chance to contribute to the session.*

*How could you not recommend them??!!*

*I think that the children absolutely love these sessions and we are lucky to have them.*

*Age appropriate and a really good relationship with the children when delivered- it was engaging and the children really learnt and enjoyed it. Thank you.*

*Lessons are well planned and resourced. I love the extra ideas for continuous provision in Early Years.*

*The children loved the session, I thought it was perfect for the age of the children who all sat beautifully throughout and were fully engaged. I loved how the session was broken up with physical activities so they wouldn't be sat the whole time and losing interest.*

*Having 'visitors' delivering this content gives it more impact and pupils respond with enthusiasm. The sessions are well thought out and the instructors are always very knowledgeable about their subject.*

*The sessions were all suited to the year groups receiving them. Katie was brilliant and really adaptable to various different situations and questions from the children. Thank you Katie!*

*Every class and their teachers enjoyed their sessions. The teachers were very excited about the prospect of using the resources and teaching the lessons.*

*Children's familiarity with the scheme meant a buzz of excitement amongst pupils and engagement throughout the delivery of the CLE session. Children are also ready and keen to discuss issues raised in SCARF sessions.*

*Excellent session, adapted to children's knowledge as we went along. Great time management!*

*Caroline was great! Engaging session which gave the children opportunities to understand skills they will need their whole life.*

*Excellent engagement with the class and took lots of time to value and answer their questions.*

*The session was well resourced and the children enjoyed it. It was great to see specific vocabulary being used.*

## **6 Conclusions**

Overall CLE sessions have been highly successful and schools have greatly appreciated the changes made to delivery methods to ensure the ongoing provision of pupil workshops. Teachers also highly value the contribution that SCARF resources make to the PSHE curriculum.

## **7 References**

CLE's [\*\*Programme Overview\*\*](#) gives an overview of individual year groups' programme learning outcomes.