

SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Reviewed 06.03.09 (Mark, Taz, Donal) - Reviewed 22.05.09 (Shirley, Alan, Hine)
Reviewed 02.04.2012 (Full BOT); Reviewed Nov/Dec 2013 (Tracy/Donal); Reviewed 27/07/2015

Sexuality is an integral part of everyday life. The perception young people have about themselves as sexual beings affects their expectations, aspirations, social roles, living, and learning. Sexuality education recognises that sexuality has social, mental, emotional and spiritual dimensions as well as physical dimensions. Children need to be given opportunities to consider how the physical, social, mental, emotional and spiritual dimensions of sexuality influence their well-being.

ACTION

To provide parents and staff with a clear understanding of the school's approach to sexuality education which will assist students to gain accurate and honest information about sexuality and will encourage students to clarify their own values, and understand the values of their family and community.

GUIDELINES

1. Sexuality education is an integral part of the school Health and Physical Education programme.
2. The sexuality education programme will encourage students to develop set skills and attitudes of self-worth, decision-making, and of relating to and respecting the rights of others. Children will critically examine the social and cultural influences that shape the ways people learn about, and express, their sexuality (e.g., gender roles, body image, discrimination, equity, the media, culturally based values and beliefs and the law).
3. Teaching staff will be available to discuss the context and content of sexuality education courses with parents / caregivers.
4. Children will attend programmes for the prevention of sexual abuse separately from other sexuality programmes to prevent mixed messages confusing the intention of the sexuality programme.
5. Teachers of sexuality education will be appropriately trained, and the Principal will be informed of topics to be covered by any visiting speakers.
6. Teachers will be allowed to decline to teach the sex education component of the programme if they feel uncomfortable in that situation. The Principal will be responsible for finding a suitable teacher for any class in that situation.
7. Each year, before any specific sex education component of the sexuality education programme is taught, parents/ caregivers will be sent information about the programme, invited to discuss any issues or concerns, and reminded of their right to withdraw their students according to section 25AA of the Education Standards Act 2001

25AA Release from tuition in specified parts of health curriculum

- (1) The parent of a student enrolled at any state school may ask the principal in writing to ensure that the student is excluded from tuition in specified parts of the health curriculum related to sexuality education and, on receipt of such a request, the principal must ensure that a) the student is excluded from the relevant tuition and b) the student is supervised during that tuition.
 - (2) Nothing in subsection (1) requires a principal to ensure that a student who is to be excluded from tuition in specified parts of the health curriculum related to sexuality education is excluded at any other time while a teacher deals with a question raised by another student that relates to the specified part of the curriculum.
- Section 105D of the Education Act 1964 is consequentially repealed.
8. The RU Holder of PE / PA will co-ordinate the sex education programme.