



Sacred Heart Girls' College
Manawa Tapu

Draft Statement on the Delivery of Health and Sexuality Education at Sacred Heart Girls' College

Rationale

The Board of Trustees recognises that health and sexuality education provides vital assistance to our students for adult life. This includes biological information as well as a focus on how cultural and societal factors affect all aspects of our hauora (health and well-being). We aim to deliver a holistic approach which considers the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social dimensions of our students. Our aim is to work with parents and caregivers to create positive well-balanced young adults.

Purposes

- To comply with the New Zealand Health and Physical Education Curriculum (2007)
- To ensure that students have the knowledge necessary to make informed choices in line with the Catholic Faith and the Special Character of the school
 - To deliver health and sexuality education in a holistic way
 - To run a programme suited to the needs of the students at the current time
 - To ensure the programme is delivered by trained and supportive staff

Guidelines

1. Health and sexuality education will be delivered in accordance with Sexuality Education: A Guide for principals, boards of trustees and teachers (MOE, 2015).
2. Ideally, students will participate in 12-15 hours of sexuality education per year (ERO, 2007b).
3. A respectful, trusting and supportive environment will be maintained so students and teachers can work collaboratively and safely.
4. Cultural differences will be celebrated and taken into consideration when teaching sexuality programmes.
5. Teachers delivering the health and sexuality education will have the opportunity for ongoing training to assist them in the delivery of sensitive and balanced programmes in line with Catholic teaching.
6. Teachers delivering health and sexuality education will undertake the Understanding Sexuality course mandated by the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference.
7. The Board of Trustees will ensure there is funding available so that teachers can take part in Understanding Sexuality courses.
8. Pastoral care will be available to teachers and students as required.
9. External health educators invited into the school will be carefully scrutinised and authorised by the Principal and the Board of Trustees.
10. Where outside providers are engaged, services should be incorporated within existing programmes and linked to the achievement objectives from the Health and Physical Education Curriculum (Ministry of Education, 2015).
11. Presentation by outside providers should not be one off experience but rather a tool for further teaching (Ministry of Education 2015).
12. Consultation with the school's community, including the parents and the Proprietor, will take place at least once every two years (Education Act, 1989, as amended in 2001).
13. If a parent or caregiver writes to the principal requesting to have their child excluded from any element of sexuality education in a health education programme, the principal will ensure that the student is excluded from the relevant tuition and that the student is supervised during that time (Ministry of Education, 2009).