



## WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL POLICY SEXUALITY EDUCATION

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	1	As sexuality is an integral part of everyone’s everyday life, the perception young people have about themselves as sexual people affects expectations, aspirations, social roles, living and learning as well as governing sexual behaviour and ultimately their total wellbeing.
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	1	Students will gain accurate and honest information about sexuality.
	2	Students will assess their own values and achieve an understanding of those of their family and community values.
	3	Students will develop skills to make informed and responsible decisions about personal relationships, sexual behaviour and sexual health.
	4	Students will understand their rights of access to healthcare services and find out more about the guidance, counselling and supportive services within and beyond the School.
<b>GUIDELINES</b>	1	Sexuality education is an integral part of a comprehensive health education programme in the School. Students are informed of programme content in advance.  Year 10 students are encouraged to take part in the programme, but parents/caregivers can request that their children be withdrawn, by writing to the Teacher-in-Charge Health and/or Principal.
	2	This programme, which includes and encourages skills and attitudes of self-esteem, decision-making, relating to and respecting the rights of others, will have the topic of contraception integrated into it. Within the <i>Sexuality</i> section of the programme, abstinence will be promoted as a positive option.
	3	Only appropriately trained staff will provide information about sexuality including contraception and contraceptive methods to classes. The Principal will be informed of topics to be covered by visiting speakers in the sexuality area.
	4	Students seeking advice regarding pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases may self-refer to the Guidance Counsellors and/or School-based Health Nurses.
	5	The Health Programme will focus on giving quality information to students, covering issues such as: a) attitudes and values of parents/caregivers/students; b) relationships and communication with parents/caregivers; c) physical and emotional implications and strategies for more positive outcomes; d) the right to say “no” and legal issues including consent; e) peer group and societal influences and expectations; f) risks online and in social media environments and acting in ways to enhance wellbeing; g) health risks (STIs); h) what if it all goes wrong?
	6	Within the bounds of confidentiality, students will be actively encouraged and supported by School Counsellors to discuss their sexuality issues, contraception, pregnancy, etc. with parents/caregivers as early as possible.
	7	The School can, with due sensitivity, display posters, hand out pamphlets, lend books, stock books in the School Library and show videos containing contraception information targeted at appropriate levels.
	8	Teaching staff will be available to discuss the content of the sexuality education courses with parents/caregivers of students.

	9	The Health Nurses are available for self-referral by students and these services are actively promoted by this programme.
<b>EVALUATION</b>		The Board, in association with the Principal, will review this policy annually in accordance with the School's quality management cycle.

Approved by the Board

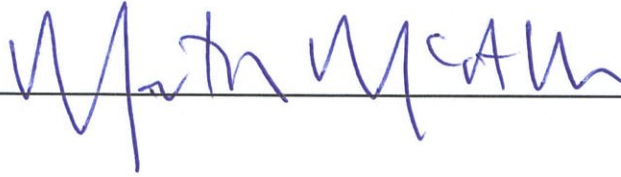
Signed Chairperson:



Date:

18/9/2023

Signed Principal:



Date:

18/9/2023