

**GOLDEN BAY HIGH SCHOOL
SEXUALITY EDUCATION POLICY**

RATIONALE:

Because learning about sexuality can be 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 as well as governing their sexual behaviour and ultimately their total health.

PURPOSES:

To assist students to gain accurate and honest information about sexuality.

To encourage students to clarify their own values and understand the values of their family and community.

To assist students to develop the skills they need to make responsible decisions about their personal relationships, sexual behaviour, and sexual health.

To assist students to understand their rights of access to health-care services and find out more about the guidance, counselling, and other supportive services, both within and outside GBHS.

BROAD GUIDELINES:

Sexuality education is an integral part of a comprehensive health education programme in the school.

Every two years, as required by legislation, the board of trustees will undertake consultation with the school community on a draft statement on the delivery of the health curriculum. This will outline how the school will implement the health education component of the health and physical education curriculum. As a result of this consultation, the board will adopt a statement on the delivery of the health curriculum.

Each year, at the beginning of each rotation, students will be given a letter addressed to their parents/caregivers which; outlines the programme content, invites them to discuss any areas of concern and reminds them of their right to withdraw their children according to section 25AA of the Education Act 1989 (as amended in 2001).

The sexuality education programme will encourage students to develop the skills and attitudes of self-worth, decision making, relating to and respecting the rights of others, and will include the topics of contraception and affirming sexual diversity. Abstinence will be promoted as a positive option.

Teachers of sexuality education will be appropriately trained, and the principal will be informed of topics to be covered by any visiting speakers.

Students believed to be sexually active and likely to at be risk as a result of their sexual activity will be reminded about the skills of our school Counsellor, and the services provided by our Adolescent Health clinic nurses and the Medical Centre personnel.

The school counsellor may refer students to appropriately qualified community agencies for further counselling and advice.

Within the bounds of confidentiality, the school counsellor will actively encourage and support students to discuss their concerns about sexuality education, contraception, pregnancy, and so on with their parents/caregivers as early as possible.

Teachers can, with due sensitivity; display posters, display and hand out pamphlets, lend books, stock books or pamphlets in the school library, and show videos / DVDs / sexual information targeted at appropriate levels.

Teaching staff will be available to discuss the content of sexuality education courses with parents / caregivers.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on: 24 August 2015

Review Date: March 2018