

## **Statement to Parents**

### **Health in the New Zealand Curriculum**

By law we are required to prepare a statement about the delivery of the sexuality education component of the health curriculum, and then to consult our school community before we adopt the statement.

The following statement describes the way in which the school will teach sexuality education:

Sexuality education is a lifelong process. It provides students with the knowledge, understanding, and skills to develop positive attitudes towards sexuality, to take care of their sexual health, and to enhance their interpersonal relationships, now and in the future. The term "sex education" generally refers only to the physical dimension of sexuality education.

Students will consider how the physical, social, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of sexuality influence their well-being.

Students will critically examine the social and cultural influences that shape the ways people learn about and express their sexuality, for example, in relation to gender roles, the concept of body image, discrimination, equity, the media, culturally based values and beliefs, and the law.

Students will be given a range of age-appropriate learning opportunities. These include opportunities to develop:

- knowledge, understandings, and skills relating to sexual development – physical, emotional, and social;
- knowledge, understandings, and skills to enhance their sexual and reproductive health
  - for example, knowledge about the process of conception and the skills to make decisions that maintain and enhance their sexual health;
- personal and interpersonal skills and related attitudes, including
  - the skills needed to examine people's attitudes, values, and beliefs and their rights and responsibilities
  - attitudes of respect for themselves and other people
  - attitudes of care and concern for themselves and other people
  - effective communication skills
  - problem-solving and decision-making skills;
- understandings and skills to enhance relationships
  - for example, in relation to friendship, love, families, and parenting

Classroom programmes will be sensitively developed so that they respect the diverse values and beliefs of students and of the community.

There is provision under the law for individual parents of students to write to the principal to request that their child/children be excluded from specified parts of the health programme related to sexuality education. The principal is required to ensure that the student is excluded from the relevant tuition and that the student is supervised during that time. This requirement does not extend to exclusion at any other time when a teacher deals with a question raised by another student that relates to sexuality education.