



## Sexuality Education Statement

### NAG 1: Health Education Policy

#### Rationale

Because learning about sexuality can be an integral part of everyday life, the perception young people have about themselves as they develop and mature 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, feelings and emotions as they develop.
- To assist students to understand they can seek support and guidance from school to access health care services and / or other supportive services.

#### Guidelines

- Sexuality education is an integral part of a health programme in 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.
- Parents / caregivers and whānau will be advised prior to the sexuality education programme being taught. They will be sent information about the programme and reminded of their right to withdraw their children according to section 25AA of the Education Act 1989 (as amended in 2001).

- The sexuality education programme at Te Kauwhata Primary School will cover the following (as outlined in Sexuality Education - Revised Guide for Principals, Boards of Trustees, and Teachers, 2002 and the Relationships and Sexuality Education: a guide for Teachers, Leaders and Boards of Trustees) :
  - **Knowledge, Understandings, and Skills relating to Sexual Development - Physical, Emotional and Social**
    - Years 1–3 - At these levels, sexuality education will focus on learning about growth, development, the human body, friendships, and family relationships. Students will describe changes in growth and identify body parts and developmental needs. Students will discuss family relationships and affirm and show respect for diverse family structures. Gender stereotypes and norms will be questioned and discussed, and students will take action to support the well-being of others and learn friendship skills. Students will learn about basic human rights in relation to relationships and identity. Students will learn to express feelings and how they contribute to positive and inclusive environments. It is recommended that discussions about identity, personal health, cultural practices, body parts, and families are woven into learning throughout the year and that appropriate and diverse resources are used to engage students in discussions.
    - Years 4 - 6 - At these levels, students will learn about pubertal change and body growth and development. This may include human reproduction. They will learn how to support themselves and others during change and develop a positive body image. They will describe how social messages and stereotypes about relationships, cultural practices, sexuality, and gender affect well-being, and will actively affirm the rights of themselves and others. They will reflect on friendships and plan strategies for positive and supportive relationships. They will identify risks and issues in online and social media environments and question messages related to gender, sexuality, and diversity. They will identify how to access health care. It is recommended that a specific time is dedicated to learning about sexuality.
  - Along with the above, the appropriate understandings, skills, and attitudes from the strands 'Personal and Interpersonal' and 'Enhancing Relationships' will be incorporated into units of teaching.
  - The Year 5/6 programmes will be delivered to boys and girls separately with the support of the Public Health Nurse.
  - Teaching staff will be available to discuss the content of sexuality education courses with parents / caregivers.

Approved by Board \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson - signed for the Board of Trustees

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson - signed for the Board of Trustees

Date \_\_\_\_\_