

Flemington Primary School Sexuality Education Policy



1. PURPOSE AND RATIONALE:

School-based sexuality education is one of the core learning and teaching responsibilities a school undertakes to equip its students for a healthy and fulfilling adult life. Sexuality education occurs within a whole-of-school approach, is developmentally appropriate, and is achieved through a shared partnership between the school, Parents/Carers, community and health professionals.

In Victoria, it is compulsory for government schools to provide sexuality education within the Health and Physical Education domain in the Victorian Curriculum.

2. POLICY STATEMENT:

The goal of sexuality education is to build on knowledge, skills and behaviours, thus enabling young people to make responsible and safe choices.

It is the belief in Flemington Primary School that the best school-based sexuality education takes a whole-school learning approach and is:

- driven by appropriately trained external educators
- comprehensive
- inclusive
- supported by the latest research
- ongoing and integrated into a student's cross-curriculum learning
- part of a student's whole-school learning experience

To be meaningful for all, Flemington Primary School aims to ensure its sexuality education program recognises and responds to diverse student needs and encompasses the biological, social and emotional aspects of sexuality.

3. DEFINITIONS:

- **Sexuality Education:** Learning about the cognitive, emotional, social, interactive and physical aspects of sexuality. Sexuality education starts early in childhood and progresses through adolescence and adulthood. It aims at supporting and protecting sexual development. It gradually equips and empowers children and young people with information, skills and positive values to understand and enjoy their sexuality, have safe and fulfilling relationships and take responsibility for their own and other people's sexual health and well-being. (*WHO Regional Office for Europe and BZgA. 2010. Standards for Sexuality Education in Europe: A Framework for Policy Makers, Education and Health Authorities and Specialists. Köln: BZgA.*)

4. ACTION GUIDELINES:

- The Victorian Curriculum will be implemented from Year 1 to Year 6 at Flemington Primary School and knowledge will be built upon year-on-year

4.1 Sensitive information

All school staff must:

- be conscious of issues related to the disclosure of personal information
- give careful consideration prior to approval of collection of sensitive information
- not promote their own personal preferences

4.2 Sexuality education is a shared responsibility

Each year engagement sessions will be held outlining:

- The sexuality education program undertaken at Flemington Primary School across the various year levels
- Parents/Carers role in sexuality education
- Provide Parents/Carers with useful information to continue their child's sexuality education outside of school
- Opt out options for Parents/Carers who wish their child not to participate

4.3 Opt Out

Parental permission is not required for sexuality education as it forms a standard part of the Victorian public schools curriculum, however it is realised that Parents/Carers may wish to exclude their children from parts of this program. In this case, such Parents/Carers should inform the Principal to make alternate arrangements.

4.4 Complaints and Issues

All complaints and issues shall be managed in line with current policies and protocols pertaining to any complaint or issues received by the school. Please refer to the School Issues Resolution Policy pertaining to this.

5. MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW:

Flemington Primary School will:

- Utilise a whole-school integrated approach to sexuality education across the curriculum that is supportive and inclusive
- Involve staff and parents in updating the Sexuality Education Policy
- Annually review materials and approaches used in sexuality education to ensure content is developmentally appropriate content for the age and stage of the student
- Work in partnership with Parents/Carers to inform the community around the content of the program

6. RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS:

- Privacy Policy
- Curriculum Framework Policy
- Issues Resolution Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying and Harassment Policy

7. REFERENCES:

- Department of Education and Training - About sexuality education
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/physed/Pages/about.aspx>
- Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority – F-10
<https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>

8. REVISION HISTORY:

This policy was ratified by School Council in on Monday the 25th of November, 2019.

It will be reviewed as determined by School Council or every 3 years.