



July 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Sexuality Education for Year 9 students

Your child will commence at the beginning of Term 3 the “Relationships” scheme of learning within their Health Education classes for 9 weeks. Within this scheme of learning classes will cover pertinent material to stay safe. The Health Education teacher and an outside provider from the Mates & Dates initiative will deliver the lessons to the classes. [Mates & Dates is a healthy relationships programme for secondary school students](#). The topics, detailed below, form an important part of the New Zealand Physical Education and Health curriculum. In keeping with the Education Amendment Act (1985) we provide parents the following information and the opportunity to withdraw your child from the programme if you so choose.

What does the programme cover?

Firstly, the term ‘sexuality’, for our purposes, refers to anything that impacts upon the child because of their gender and their sexual development. The course will cover puberty, gender and gender stereotypes, healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, pornography, and the knowledge and skills to make positive and healthy lifestyle choices.

What are the purposes and objectives of the programme?

The main purpose is to provide students with knowledge to help them deal with issues that may confront them as they move through life.

- a) To expand the students’ understanding of the biological workings of their bodies.
- b) To develop skills that will empower them to make appropriate decisions and value judgements about their lives with regard to sexuality issues.
- c) To delay the onset of sexual activity.
- d) To promote the idea that when they choose to become sexually active, it is a well-informed decision.
- e) To develop students’ skills on how they can be assertive and use effective communication.
- f) To develop students’ skills and understanding on how to have healthy relationships that are based on respect, negotiation and consent.
- g) To expand students’ understanding on how to get help if they, or someone they know, are in an unhealthy relationship.
- h) To develop students’ understanding of how pornography negatively impacts the wellbeing of individuals and their relationship with others.
- i) To take a critical look at the messages being given to young people, particularly via the media, especially those that are misleading and potentially damaging.
- j) To expand students’ understanding of key issues and be able to make well-informed appropriate decisions for their safety.

If you have any concerns and you do not wish for your child to take part in the Relationships scheme of learning, can you please email Brittany Graham, Head of Department for Health Education by Friday 23 July on brittany.graham@saintkentigern.com.

COLLEGE

For Boys and Girls in Years 7-13
130 Pakuranga Road, Pakuranga 2010
PO Box 51060, Pakuranga, Auckland 2140
Phone +64 9 577 0749 Fax +64 9 577 0700

BOYS’ SCHOOL

For Boys in Years 1-8
82 Shore Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28790, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 7682 Fax +64 9 520 7688

GIRLS’ SCHOOL

For Girls in Years 1-8
514 Remuera Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28399, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 1400 Fax +64 9 524 7657

PRESCHOOL

For Boys and Girls aged 3 and 4
514 Remuera Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28399, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 8814 Fax +64 9 524 7657

If you have any further questions regarding the Relationships scheme of learning, please email Brittany Graham. There are additional details available with regards to the programme on the Health Curriculum OLE pages.

Yours sincerely



Brittany Graham
Head of Health Education



Paul Bennett
Head of Faculty – PE & Health

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