



Sexuality and Consent Policy

Barwon Valley School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has zero tolerance for child abuse.
(Child Safe Standards)

Rationale : Sexuality education is an integral part of the school's curriculum. All children need ongoing and age appropriate sexuality education, with consideration given to the student's level of understanding and specific learning needs.

Aims

- To provide students with developmentally appropriate education in the area of sexuality education.
- To ensure students are provided with accurate information.
- To ensure students have the necessary skills to increase their ability to make positive choices and to understand their rights within relationships including consent.
- To provide students with appropriate problem solving skills.
- To provide parents with appropriate information and support.

Implementation

- A developmentally appropriate and comprehensive sexuality education curriculum must be delivered across the school as a component of different curriculum areas such as Health & Physical Education, Personal and Social Capabilities and English.
- Schools are not required to seek parental permission for the inclusion of sexuality education within the school's health education, however a parent or carer may decide not to allow their child to participate in sexual education.
- In the Junior Learning Community, the focus will be on recognising and naming feelings, being friends and the meaning of public and private.
- In the Senior Learning Community, the focus will be on reviewing the above areas and also building relationships, consent and asking for help.
- In BVAC the focus will be on further developing understanding of relationships, emotional literacy, showing respect, staying safe, gender identity and relations, personal strengths, stress management and building resilience.
- The school will provide parents with an outline of the Sexuality Education Curriculum and actively support parent engagement activities.
- The school will invite others with expertise in this area to participate in lessons eg local practitioners, nurses, health education officers and from culturally diverse groups where appropriate.
- A significant component of the Sexuality Curriculum will be about relationships eg feelings, friendships, respect, social skills, consent and protective behaviours.
- Parent sessions will be offered in conjunction with the Sexuality Education curriculum including consultation and collaboration between the school families and community.
- When required, a professional facilitator may provide guidance in aspects of the program delivery eg Family Planning Victoria.
- The school will support and respect sexual diversity (LGBTIQ).

School Leadership Responsibilities:

- Support staff training to ensure staff have the ability to teach and assess sexuality education against the Victorian Curriculum committing to the necessary staff and resources.
- Ensure there is appropriate consultation through the school council.
- Drive the shared responsibility approach and importance of sexuality education through a whole school learning approach.
- Assist the school community to reach a shared understanding when there are different views about sexual education.

Resources:

- Resilience, Rights & Respectful Relationships
- So SAFE! – Protective Behaviours & Relationships (& the appropriate behaviour within different relationships)
- Family Planning Victoria Resources
- Explicit teaching and learning of social concepts underlying the School Wide Approach to Positive Behaviour and interactions within school and the wider community.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed with parents, teachers, Wellbeing Support Officer, nurse and Wellbeing Team and school council input after three years.

Review Cycle

This Policy was last updated August 2023 and scheduled for review August 2026.