

## Tool 2.g Policy development guide

### Staff Notes

In this guide, you will find an outline of some of the elements that are essential for robust relationships and sexuality education, along with a series of examples to assist you. We encourage schools to adapt and incorporate this information into their own policies, ensuring that the content meets their particular needs.

#### Policy development guide

This guide provides information on the following policy elements

- a strong rationale
- guiding principles
- a statement on rights and responsibilities
- an outline of the implementation process
- links to other relevant school policies

### A strong rationale

A strong rationale is important in highlighting why relationships and sexuality education is important to your school community.

Example:

[Insert school name] acknowledges that schools, parents and the wider community share the role of supporting children in accessing sexuality information and health support and in building their social skills. Schools play a central role in the planning and delivery of developmentally appropriate information that aligns with the Victorian Curriculum. Relationships and sexuality education provides important messages and skills that can increase students' safety, prepare them for puberty and relationships and support them in making healthy choices.

### Guiding principles

Guiding principles provide additional information to support your rationale and clearly state your school's position on relationships and sexuality education.

Example:

[Insert school name] recognises that relationships and sexuality education:

- requires a whole school approach
- is a shared responsibility between the school, parents and the wider community



- provides an opportunity to contribute to a safe and caring learning environment and actively works to eliminate discrimination through education, positive role modelling and inclusive practices
- directly addresses aspects of gender stereotyping and respecting diversity
- is compulsory for all government schools in Victoria and must be assessed and reported on against the Victorian Curriculum
- needs to be developmentally appropriate to the age and stage of the child.

## A statement on rights and responsibilities

This statement outlines the rights and responsibilities of various school community members in relation to relationships and sexuality education.

Example:

- Relationships and sexuality education is a core teaching responsibility and is therefore seen as the responsibility of every staff member.
- All staff are responsible for ensuring that the school environment supports the goals of relationships and sexuality education.
- All staff are responsible with regard to informing school leadership of concerns regarding student sexual health or safety.
- School leadership and the relationships and sexuality education team are responsible for the program design and implementation.
- School leadership and the relationships and sexuality education team are responsible for ensuring that relationships and sexuality education information is provided to parents and carers.
- School leadership are responsible for ensuring appropriate reporting, follow up and student care where they have been informed of concerns regarding the sexual health or safety of students, in line with all legal requirements pertaining to mandatory reporting.
- Parental permission is not required for Victorian curriculum based relationships and sexuality education, however, it is realised that under exceptional circumstances, parents who wish to exclude their children from parts of this program should write to leadership within the school, stating their objections.

## An outline of the implementation process

This section provides an example of how your school might implement whole-school relationships and sexuality education.

[Insert school name] will implement a whole-school approach to relationships and sexuality education by:

- delivering at least six relationships and sexuality education sessions per class, annually, throughout the school
- participating in opportunities to share knowledge and skills across the school
- incorporating coaching and mentoring strategies to support sustainable relationships and sexuality education



- collecting information from teaching staff, students and parents to inform the delivery of relationships and sexuality education
- ensuring professional learning needs of staff are identified and met each year
- providing an annual parent information session
- forming or joining a cluster of schools providing relationships and sexuality education to share practice and support continuous improvement.

As adapted from <http://www.northernbaycollege.vic.edu.au/policies>

## Links to other relevant school policies

Other relevant school policy information that relates to relationships and sexuality education:

- bullying
- sexual harassment
- student engagement and wellbeing
- student conduct
- privacy
- family engagement.

**For further information on policies and guidelines, the following resources may be useful:**

### **UNESCO guidelines**

[http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001832/183281e.pdf?bcsi\\_scan\\_2C647EB3599034DE=0&bcsi\\_scan\\_filename=183281e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001832/183281e.pdf?bcsi_scan_2C647EB3599034DE=0&bcsi_scan_filename=183281e.pdf)

### **Diversity school audit (SSC)**

<http://www.glhv.org.au/resource/sexual-diversity-school-audit>

