

Section E (NAG 5) SAFE, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Policy: Assisting Students with Sexuality Issues

Date of Review: November 2022

Reviewers: Olivia Fugmann (Deputy Principal), Katie Wasson (HOD Counselling), Michelle Chrustowski (School Nurse), Staff Health & Safety Committee, Pastoral Care Team (PCT)

GOAL

Students need to be able to access appropriate professional services for concerns relating to their sexuality.

A positive and confidential climate should be provided for students when accessing information about sexual issues

OBJECTIVE

A confidential service is offered by Support Services staff including the School Counsellors and Nurses, the Peer Sexuality Support Programme team (PSSP), the Public Health Nurse and the Doctors in Schools Service.

GUIDELINES

While recognising the uniqueness of each situation, the following procedures are recommended:

- 1 Will follow relevant Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act guidelines which states, only those people who have the consent of the Principal and the BoT can talk to young people about contraceptives and how to use them (With the exception of the colleges Registered Nurses). People under 16 can obtain and use contraception without the knowledge of their parents.
- 2 Students are encouraged to talk with parents/caregivers. PCT staff can assist by means of on-going support and/or referral.
- 3 Staff members are encouraged to refer students to the counsellors if they are approached by students for help.
- 4 External agency involvement can occur in school time after consultation with the Counsellor and/or the School Nurse. When students need to leave school to attend appointments, normal signing out procedures are followed.
- 5 Where possible students needing to attend appointments with external agencies should attempt where possible to make appointments outside of school time.

Chairperson

Principal

Date