

# Sex Education

God created sex as a means of celebrating physically the strong emotional bonds of love between a husband and wife. Amazingly God has designed this love bond to be the method of procreation. From the beginning of written history, the Bible speaks strongly about this bond by going as far as saying the two will become one.

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

## What We Value

Our College community believes that:

- Parents have the prime responsibility for educating their children about human sexuality.
- The College supports families and students by teaching the required authority curriculum imperatives and additional sexual education programs in a holistic Christian Schooling educational program to meet the life educational needs of our students.
- Our students are entitled to truth and grace in all matters.
- Our young people are best served during these critical years of development with age appropriate information in terms of their physical, moral and emotional development, within a rich Christian values sexual education program.
- Students are entitled to ask direct questions and have non-direct means of asking real life questions in regards to sexual and relational questions.
- Dealing with sexual issues in an open and factual manner equips our young people to be informed, safer and less likely to be abused or make regrettable life decisions during their formative years.
- Sexual education is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health.
- We need to acknowledge that other lifestyles and life companionship models form part of a pluralistic society and that adults have moral agency in these matters that others need to respect.

What we recognise as the major issue for our students to work through in terms of sex:

The College holds the Christian worldview that sexual intercourse is best expressed in marriage. Even in today's pluralistic society our young people are best served by waiting for marriage to commence sexual activity for multiple moral, emotional, physical and long term reasons that are in line with Biblical teachings.

Yet, many of our students will face serious pressures and temptations to commence sexual activity before marriage. This is compounded by the later age of marriage in society today compared to the past where young people married, particularly females soon after they moved from childhood into adulthood based on the physical change in their bodies. There was no adolescent period.

Our young people are encouraged to formulate clear personal values and practical plans to manage their choices through this period of time. Even our young people who have a strong commitment to the Christian Faith need to clearly think through these issues. These matters are of the highest order of personal and faith choices and clearly have long term consequences.

### **What We Teach**

In the Primary School, students learn about parts of the body, appropriate actions toward them by others and generally age appropriate aspects of human development. Without going into major detail, students should know basic concepts of human reproduction through appropriate story books (e.g. babies do not come from storks). Our program provides the principles and practises designed to minimise risk of harm to students and also help them to protect themselves.

Early Secondary School students learn about reproduction, puberty, menstruation and sexual identity.

As the students move through Secondary School the program is more comprehensive and includes three main elements delivered from a Christian Worldview basis. Further, teachers will answer direct questions asked by the students or point the students to further information where appropriate.

### **Attitudes and Values**

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
- learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
- learning the value of respect, love and care
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making

### **Personal and Social Skills**

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- developing self-respect and empathy for others
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an
- absence of prejudice
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- managing conflict
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages

- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- learning about contraception
- understanding how to seek sexual health advice
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity (Faith based and general emotional and physical reasons), and the benefits to be gained from such delay
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy