# Operational Policy: Relationships and Sexuality Education (NAG 1)

## Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ

## Statement of Intent

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for BLENNZ to ensure that sexuality education is delivered in a responsible, inclusive, accessible, and age-appropriate manner.

The Ministry of Education sets the national curriculum for sexuality education in New Zealand. BLENNZ must comply with this curriculum and ensure that it is delivered in an appropriate manner for all ākonga, in partnership with whānau and where appropriate, other local educational settings. BLENNZ may also supplement the curriculum with additional information or resources that are accessible and appropriate for ākonga who are blind, low vision or deafblind.

This policy applies to all ākonga enrolled in BLENNZ, from early childhood to the end of schooling.

## Policy Requirements

Relationships and Sexuality Education is a vital aspect of education and is an integral part of the holistic development of ākonga. It is the responsibility of BLENNZ, in partnership with whānau and other educational settings, to provide ākonga with accurate, comprehensive, and age-appropriate sexuality education that promotes healthy relationships, positive attitudes towards sexuality, and safe sexual practices.

### Age-Appropriateness

Relationships and Sexuality Education must be delivered in a manner that is appropriate for the age and maturity level of ākonga. BLENNZ must ensure that the content is not too explicit or graphic for younger ākonga, and that older ākonga are provided with comprehensive information that meets their developmental needs.

### Inclusivity and Diversity

Relationships and Sexuality Education must be inclusive and respect diversity. BLENNZ must ensure that all ākonga, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or culture, receive the same quality of education. Relationships and Sexuality Education must be delivered in an inclusive and accessible manner. Teachers must use inclusive language and avoid any stigmatisation or discrimination of ākonga based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

### Individualised Education Plans (IEPs)

BLENNZ must consider the individual needs of ākonga when developing their IEPs. Where appropriate sexuality education should be included in IEPs, and BLENNZ must ensure that the content and delivery of sexuality education is appropriate for the individual needs of the ākonga. This will be done in partnership with whanau and educational settings in which the ākonga are enrolled.

### Whānau Consent

Whānau have the right to be informed about the content and delivery of sexuality education programmes run by BLENNZ. BLENNZ must inform whānau about the sexuality education curriculum and seek their consent before delivering it to their children. BLENNZ must also provide parents with the option to withdraw their child from sexuality education classes.

### Professional Development

Teachers must be adequately prepared to deliver sexuality education in a sensitive, informed, and age-appropriate manner. BLENNZ must provide professional development opportunities for teachers to improve their knowledge and skills in sexuality education as required.

### Confidentiality

Ākonga have the right to confidentiality when discussing sexuality education with teachers. Teachers must maintain strict confidentiality and only share information with parents or caregivers when required by law or when there is a risk of harm to the ākonga or others.

### Supporting Documents

[Relationships and sexuality education: A guide for teachers, leaders and boards of trustees | Health & PE · TKI](https://hpe.tki.org.nz/guidelines-and-policies/relationships-and-sexuality-education/)

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