



PINELANDS HIGH SCHOOL
POLICY ON SEXUAL CONDUCT

A. EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

PHS undertakes to maintain an ongoing, thorough and comprehensive Sexuality Education Programme during the Lifeskills Curriculum (Guidance component) and in other less formal ways, e.g. Cross-Curricular week programmes, assembly devotions, poster displays on noticeboards, books available in the library etc.

B. PREGNANCY AND TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

1. Policy Document on 'Learners who are pregnant and learners co-responsible for the pregnancy' drawn up by WCED and principals governs this policy.
2. Learners who are pregnant will be treated without bias, and will have access to counselling support.
3. Counselling at school will involve a thorough investigation of all the possible options available to the pregnant learner.
4. Learners/families of learners will be encouraged to make full use of outside support agencies, for example OPTIONS (Goodwood) and CRISIS CARE (Rondebosch East).
5. **Confidentiality, parental involvement and obligations of educators:**
 - The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act states that **women require no consent from anyone else for a termination, even if they are minors**. This applies to women who are between 0 and 12 weeks pregnant.
 - The law also requires that health workers treat the matter confidentially.
 - Health workers are not obliged to take an active part in the termination of pregnancy.
 - However, in the case of an emergency, health workers must intervene in order to save the patient or to prevent further problems.

Confidentiality will be maintained throughout counselling if requested by the learner unless there is a danger to the learner's physical or psychological well-being. Counsellors will make every effort to encourage learners to involve relevant family members in decision-making.

While it is ideal that a single counsellor or educator deal with the entire case, a PHS educator will not be obliged to assist the learner in the procuring of an abortion or to make any further arrangements regarding the pregnancy. However, where a learner decides to terminate pregnancy without parental knowledge, the educator has an obligation to refer her to a co-professional or agency (e.g. OPTIONS) to assist her through the further stages.

6. Male co-responsibility

Wherever possible and/or appropriate, the male co-responsible for the pregnancy will be involved in the decision-making and counselling process, especially if he is a learner at PHS. Counsellors will make every effort to encourage the co-responsible male to involve relevant family members.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Any form of sexual harassment is absolutely unacceptable, and will be dealt with as a Level 3 offence. The possible consequences which a learner who has sexually harassed another will face range from short-term suspension from school to expulsion from school and police intervention.

Please see Sexual Harassment Policy for more details.