

Respectful Relationships Feb 2021

There have been many stories in the media lately about sexual harassment and sexual assault. It would be naïve to assume that our teenagers aren't aware of these stories, they may in fact, have questions they are too embarrassed to ask. There has recently been a story in the news about young adults in NSW advocating for sexual consent to be taught earlier in the curriculum. [Consent isn't as simple as 'no means no'. Here's what you need to know - ABC News](#)

Parents and carers may not be aware, but Greensborough College has run a program for year 7's for at least the last ten years called SASH (Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment). This program is run by our wellbeing team and was born out of the recognition that young teenagers can often be unwittingly drawn into sexual behaviours for many reasons, sometimes it is because they think that's what they should be doing as they grow older. We usually run this program in term 3 or 4 for year 7's

In the SASH program, we discuss how the changes in puberty affect our brain development and this brings about sexual thoughts and feelings, and this is NORMAL. We also explain that consent for any kind of sexual touching is mandatory and we discuss the types of behaviours that are defined as sexual harassment and assault e.g. creepy staring and leering, unwelcome touching, suggestive comments or jokes, insults of a sexual nature etc. Our primary reason for this program is to prevent these behaviours disrupting your child's experience of school and learning.

This year for the first time we have booked the [Kids First](#) agency to deliver sex education about consent and respect in relationships for our year 8 classes. Regular education of this nature is recommended for all year levels and this is something Greensborough College is working towards.

It is useful for parents and carers to have these conversations with your teenagers across all the years of high school. However, many parents and carers don't always feel confident to start these conversations or to keep them on track if our darling teenager pushes back with "what would you know...?" An excellent resource that parents and carers can refer to is [Talk Soon. Talk Often.](#)

There is also the Department of Education and Training Respectful Relationships webpage you can refer to [Respectful Relationships \(education.vic.gov.au\)](#)

If you wish to discuss any of this material or would like more information, please feel free to contact the Wellbeing team at Greensborough College on Thursdays or Fridays.

For support: Parentline – 13 22 89 (counselling support for parents and carers.)

Northern Centre Against Sexual Assault Tel: 9496 2369 Mon-Fri 9-5pm

TALK SOON, TALK OFTEN

With our generation, our parents – sex was just a taboo subject. Whereas this generation, we're more open about it. Back when I went to school, some people had sex education, and a lot of people didn't. It made it easier if you had something. – Parent

From Talk Soon Talk Often p2

I've probably never sat down and discussed the birds and the bees. It's not been like that. They're boys, and you go, we'll have a bit of a chat about that now. It's not even if they ask, it's as if something goes 'ping' in my head, and I can connect bits of information. It's been little bits of information as they are ready to absorb it really. – Parent of boys 11, 13 and 16

From Talk Soon Talk Often p3