

4 August 2023

## **RE: Changes to the Australian Curriculum**

ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment, and Reporting Authority), the statutory body responsible for developing the Australian Curriculum, conducted a thorough review in 2020–2021.

The Director of Curriculum, Sharon Foster, highlighted that this review was the first time they had an open public consultation, seeking input from community groups, organizations, and education professionals alike.

The result of this comprehensive review is an updated curriculum that strengthens the explicit teaching of consent and respectful relationships across all Australian schools. The aim is to equip students with the skills and understandings required for respectfully giving and gaining consent.

Under the Personal, social and community health strand, the focus areas "Relationships and sexuality" and "Safety" will explore consent education in age-appropriate ways throughout Prep to Year 10. It's crucial to place the issue of consent within the context of respectful relationships, which is why students will be introduced to this concept from their first year of schooling.

For the Junior Years classes at Good News Lutheran College we have designed new and updated content to ensure our students receive age-appropriate education about consent. Here's a brief overview of what your child will learn in their respective grades:

### **Prep**

- Explore how to seek, give, or deny permission respectfully when sharing possessions or personal space.
- Demonstrate protective behaviors and rehearse help-seeking strategies to keep themselves safe.

### **Years 1 & 2**

- Practise strategies for respectfully seeking, giving, or denying permission.
- Learn about stereotypes, diversity, and inclusion in their communities.

### **Years 3 & 4**

- Describe how choices and actions can be influenced by stereotypes.
- Understand how valuing diversity influences well-being and promote inclusion.
- Rehearse and refine strategies for seeking, giving, and denying permission respectfully.

### **Years 5 & 6**

- Investigate how societal roles and responsibilities can be influenced by gender stereotypes.
- Describe strategies for seeking, giving, or denying consent effectively and respectfully.
- Learn about resources and strategies to manage changes and transitions, including those associated with puberty.

We understand that teaching such sensitive topics requires courage and integrity. Rest assured, our teachers will approach these discussions with honesty and sensitivity, while respecting the beliefs of all students and families.

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We believe that this knowledge is essential for the overall development and well-being of our students.

While much of this content will be taught in the coming semester, we encourage you to follow up on these important messages with your child at home. Our teachers will provide more specific information when introducing new content, and we are always here to address any questions or concerns you may have. As a school community, we value grace, respect, integrity, and courage, and we uphold these principles while delivering crucial information to our students. If you have any questions or wish to discuss these changes further, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the best education for our students.

Yours Sincerely

Maria Denholm  
**Head of Junior Years**

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