

Appendix 3

Guidelines on holding a safe consultation on Relationship and Sexuality

Education

(Adapted from Youth Work Ireland)

THE SAFETY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IS PARAMOUNT

The purpose of this consultation is to encourage young people to share their views, ideas and opinions on relationship and sexuality education. This workshop is safe, in that it is about identifying the issues most relevant to young people in general, rather than sharing individual issues and experiences. At the outset of this consultation workshop, it is vitally important that as part of agreeing a contract (ground rules) it will be stated that the workshop is not a place for telling personal stories or experiences. This could cause harm to the young people themselves or to others as a result of hearing those stories. The sharing of such stories will be gently, but absolutely discouraged. If a young person wants more information on issues that have been brought up, they can speak to the facilitator or teacher afterwards. The limits of confidentiality must be made clear to the young person in this instance.

2. CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

In facilitating student focus groups it is important to be mindful of reporting responsibilities in relation to underage sexual activity, 'sexting', sexual assault and any other sexual health issues which could impact a young person's health and welfare.

3. PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT/ INFORMATION

Parental consent is needed for children and young people under 18 years participating in the consultation. As part of this process, parents will be informed about the content of the consultation and will be provided with an opportunity to examine any associated materials or ask any questions they might have. Parents will also be informed that at no point in this consultation will young people be asked to talk about their personal behaviour or experiences, nor will they be given information inappropriate to their age.

4. GROUP SIZE AND AGE RANGE

Due to the nature of some of the issues that may arise during this consultation, it is important for the safety and comfort of students taking part, that groups are of an appropriate size, i.e. between 8 – 12 young people in each group, with an appropriate age range in each group.