



St Clare's College  
Waverley

# St Clare's College

22 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Many of you would have read the article in the weekend paper regarding a petition that is circulating amongst secondary students around the need for consent to be taught earlier in our schools.

Although the article refers to specific independent schools, given the distressing content I wanted to take this opportunity to outline how St Clare's addresses these issues which are essential for all young people to understand.

Fundamentally, consent and personal agency are questions of self respect and respect of others. St Clare's College simply will not tolerate any language, actions or behaviour that demean or disrespect others in any way.

Our students are explicitly taught, both in the formal Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Religious Education curricula, bodily autonomy, protective behaviours and responsible decision making. Consent, of course, is a minimum standard. As a Catholic school, we strive to help students engage with the Church's vision of mature, life-giving human sexuality as the expression of love and fidelity.

Through our pastoral care program our students are consistently taught about respectful relationships, personal responsibility and expressions of dignity that all our students have a right to demand and expect.

Our staff are role models for our students in this regard and should be contacted should any student feel their physical, sexual, emotional or spiritual dignity has been impacted by the actions or words of another.

Our teaching at St Clare's around sexual behaviour and sexual ethics is true to the moral teaching of the Catholic church. At the heart of this teaching is that in creating us, God gives man and woman equal personal dignity. Consent and control over one's body therefore is entirely consistent with the teachings of the Church.

As in all matters, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions. As parents and educators we are committed to working with you and our students to ensure they are given every opportunity to flourish in an environment that is safe, supportive and respectful of the incredible individuals that they are.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kerrie McDiarmid  
College Principal