

Power to manage relationships

Learning objective

Students explore skills needed when dealing with challenging relationships and unsafe situations.

Take Home Messages

- Adolescence is a period of dramatic physical, social and emotional change involving many new feelings and experiences.
- Sexual feelings are a normal part of adolescent change.
- Sexual activity has physical, social, emotional and legal implications.
- Individuals are responsible for the decisions and choices they make regarding their sexual behaviour.
- People have different attitudes, values and beliefs towards sex and sexuality.

Curriculum Links

[WA Curriculum](#)

[ACPPS093](#): Investigate how empathy and ethical decision making contribute to respectful relationships - investigating how the balance of power influences the nature of relationships and proposing actions that can be taken when a relationship is not respectful.

[International technical guidance on sexuality education](#)

- Relationships
- Violence and staying safe
- Skills for health and wellbeing

Materials

- Teaching Resource: [Sexuality cards](#) [one class set]
- Teaching Resource: [Respect and Consent Quiz](#) [one quiz per student and one teacher answer sheet]
- Teaching Resource: [He said, she said party script](#) [one 2-sided copy per group]

Before You Get Started

- Self-esteem and confidence of some students may be an issue during this activity. Be reassuring and support students as they develop the ability to practise assertive “no” statements. This will also help students with their development of resilience and emotional wellbeing.
- It is possible that a student may have been involved in a traumatic experience relating to sexual abuse. Teachers should know and understand the [protective interrupting](#) technique and what, why, when and how it is needed and used before facilitating this activity. It is important that teachers are familiar with the [Managing disclosures guide](#) and have a risk management strategy in place.
- Refer to Guides: [STIs/BBVs](#), [Gender stereotypes and expectations](#) and [Respectful relationships](#) for further content information related to this activity.

Learning Activities

Sexuality card icebreaker10 minutes

The following activity is intended to be used as an ice-breaker exercise to provide an opportunity to introduce some sexuality and relationships terminology that may be used and/or referred to throughout the lesson.

1. Before the lesson prepare a class set of the Teaching Resource: Sexuality cards.
 1. Note: There is space provided to add in other words that are relevant to the class or words that have been brought up and discussed before.
 2. Make sure the additional words are relevant to the activity and remove those that may not be appropriate for the group.
2. Have the whole class sit in a large circle.
3. Outline the rules of the activity:
 1. Review or establish the [group agreement](#), or if there are none, propose the following as a discussion in establishing a set all students will agree to before proceeding:
 1. no put downs - Everyone has the right to their beliefs, values and opinions
 2. no personal questions
 3. everyone has the right to pass (not to answer questions)
 4. all questions are good questions (even if they are provocative!)
 5. listen when other people are speaking
 6. respect the opinions of others
 7. use correct terminology
 8. use inclusive language
 9. maintain confidentiality - What is said in the room stays in the room (apart from the exception of the teacher's duty of care regarding mandatory reporting).
 10. no identifying information - If a student is telling a story about a friend they should not include their friend's name or any identifying information. Students should be encouraged to talk in the third person i.e. 'a person I know'
 2. The first student selects the top card from the deck of sexuality cards. They say the first word that comes to mind relating to the word on the card, for example, naked = sex; tolerance = acceptance; flirting = fun etc.
 3. Students place their card to the bottom of the 'deck'. This continues around the circle.
 4. It's important to remind students that they are allowed to 'pass' if they don't feel comfortable speaking about their word (refer to class ground rules). Discuss with students the importance of respecting and supporting the choices of others and their own values and beliefs.
4. Sit in the circle with the class. Model the first selection.
 1. Remind the class that although there are likely to be words mentioned that we may not say or talk about at school, we need to make sure that the words used are not offensive to other students.
 2. Emphasise that some words can have different meanings for different people, so it is important to communicate more about these topics if needed, to create a shared understanding.
5. When everyone has had a turn with a card, ask students to reflect on the activity. Pose the questions:
 1. Why is it important to know about words relating to sexuality and relationships?
 2. What is the problem, if at all, if we all have different understandings of and meanings about these words?

Respect and consent quiz

15 minutes

1. The following activity will provide important information to remind students about respect,

consent and consent and the law.

2. Give each student a copy of the Teaching Resource: Respect and Consent Quiz (alternatively, display the Quiz electronically and ask students to note their own True/False responses in their notebooks).
3. Have students complete the activity independently and then go through the correct answers with the whole class. (there is additional information for the teacher in the Teacher Guide).
4. Determine if the class is ready and there is time to proceed with the 'He said, she said' Party Script Activity based on their level of understanding about consent.

Learning Activities

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'He said, she said' party script25 minutes

Note: The small group Party Script activity should not be attempted before the Year 9 activity [Sexual consent and the law](#) has been completed. The script will form the basis of discussion as students review and extend their existing knowledge of sexual consent. Students learn a range of skills and understand when to use and apply them if dealing with challenging or unsafe situations.

1. Ask students to get into pairs or small groups of four.
2. Provide each group with a copy of the Teaching Resource: He said, she said party script and ask them to focus on Party Script A.
3. Give groups an opportunity to read through Party Script A and briefly discuss.
4. Show the following questions on a white/interactive board. Ask each group to respond to the question prompts as a whole class or discuss in small groups:
 1. Did Emma give consent to have sex with Jacob? Where in the script does it support your answer?
 2. What were some of the factors that influenced how both Emma and Jacob behaved?E.g. they were in an established relationship, alcohol, partying/celebration, location, trust, respect, body language, readiness, communication.
 3. How could Jacob have responded differently?E.g. Checked to see if Emma was giving clear consent and was ok to have sex before going ahead.
 4. At what point of the story could Jacob have done something differently?E.g. At Scene 7, Jacob could have asked Emma's friends to go and lie down with her/check on her

instead and talk to her later about why he didn't think it was a good idea OR provide a couple of other scenarios

5. Did Jacob and Emma have consensual sex? Teaching point: Giving consent means that everyone involved can clearly and freely agree to the sexual activities that will occur. If everyone is not willing or not able to give consent (such as if someone is asleep or under the influence of drugs or alcohol) then the sexual activity would be an assault and as such would be against the law. The law requires a person to be 16 years or older to provide consent to engage in any sexual activities.
6. Was it sexual assault? Teaching point: Sexual assault can be a violent, unexpected, traumatic and sometimes life threatening event or series of events, even if the person has 'passed out'. Sexual assault is ANY unwanted sexual act or behaviour which is threatening, violent, forced or coercive and to which a person has not given consent or was not able to give consent.
5. Ask students to focus on Party Script B. In their small groups discuss where in the script the characters acted differently.
6. Ask students to underline or highlight where in the script the characters demonstrated the following skills when they had to deal with an emotional, social and physically challenging situation (there may not be examples to find showing these skills):
 1. Refusal skills
 2. Communicating choices
 3. Acting assertively
 4. Expressing thoughts opinions & beliefs
 5. Initiating contingency plans

A new script, a new ending

1. Students apply their knowledge, skills and understanding of respect and consent to create a new script. It does not have to be a party script.
2. If time is limited, students can edit the existing party script from Scenes 7 – 10 only. The following criteria must be met:
 1. The script demonstrates respectful behaviour and consent between the two characters.
 2. At least two of the following skills are included in the script (refusal, communicating choices, acting assertively, expressing thoughts opinions & beliefs and/or initiating contingency plans).
 3. At least two of the following questions are included in the script.
 1. What do you want to do?
 2. Are you ready to do this?
 3. Is there anything that you're not comfortable doing?
 4. Do you want to stop?
 5. Are you happy to go further?
3. Join pairs or small groups together. Each pair/small group reads through their new script. The other group members should be actively listening to ensure the set criteria have been met.

Alternate activity: Students create their new script as a short play or electronic presentation.

3-2-1 Reflection

Students watch a YouTube clip: Partying and consent (https://youtu.be/YoUPqH_i_Qs) [6:29min]. The clip shows young people at a party drinking and dancing. Two of the characters go into the bedroom but the young male involved decides to walk away and not try and have sex with a very intoxicated young female.

Ask students to reflect on the storyline presented with the following question in mind:

- How does this clip demonstrate respect and consent?

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3-2-1 Reflection

External related resources

[The practical guide to love, sex and relationships](#)

A teaching resource from the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

[Topic 1 - Introducing Love, Sex and Relationships](#)

- Ethical framework for love, sex and relationships
- Decision making
- Sexuality timeline- what is the average of: first sexual feelings, falling in love, identifying as gay/straight/bisexual, drinking alcohol, learning about sex at school, etc.

[Topic 2 - Love, etc](#)

- Elements of healthy relationships

Body Image

Learning objective

Students analyse how beauty is represented in the media through music and magazines and the impact this, and the perceptions of others, have on personal identities.

Take Home Messages

- Beauty can be stereotyped in the media for both males and females.
- Our personal identities can be influenced by the media and other people's perceptions.

Curriculum Links

[WA HPE curriculum](#)

Sub-strand: Personal identity and change

- Factors that shape personal identities and adolescent health behaviours
- Strategies for managing changes and transitions

[International technical guidance on sexuality education](#)

Key concept 5.4 Media literacy and sexuality

- Some media portray unrealistic images about sexuality and sexual relationships, which can influence our perceptions of gender and self-esteem

Key concept 6.4 Body image

- People's feelings about their bodies can affect their health, self-image and behaviour

Materials

- Butcher's paper [6 pieces]
- Old magazines and/or newspapers
- A5 coloured paper
- Video: [Try by Colbie Caillat](#) (3 min 51 sec video)

Before You Get Started

- [Protective interrupting](#) - Teachers need to know and understand how to use this technique to prevent students from potentially disclosing sensitive information or abuse in front of other students.
- [Dealing with disclosures](#) - Teachers must be aware of school and legal procedures if a student discloses personal issues, particularly disclosures of sexual abuse.
- With so many physical and emotional changes occurring during puberty, it is normal for young people to be more self-aware during this time. In [Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2024](#), 75% of young people are concerned about body image. See the Guide: [Body image](#) for more information.
- It is important to highlight the differences between beauty represented in the world around us and real life. This activity provides an opportunity to discuss and support students' confidence and self-esteem.
- [A group agreement](#) and classroom management are essential so students feel safe and respected during classroom activities.

Learning Activities

Group agreement

5 min

Teaching tip: A group agreement must be established before any Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) program begins to ensure a safe learning environment. Read [Essential Tool: Establishing a group agreement](#) for tips on how to create one and what to include.

1. Revise or create the class [group agreement](#).

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Learning Activities

Character trait brainstorm

20 min

2. Attach 6 pieces of butcher's paper to the walls of the classroom. Label each piece of butcher's paper with one of the following titles: beautiful, sexy, ugly, handsome, creative, helpful.
3. Allocate a small group of students to each piece of paper.

Teaching tip: You may want to choose groups or allow students to self-select to reduce the potential for bullying or inappropriate comments. If this won't be an issue check out the Teaching strategies: [Group strategies](#) for ideas on grouping.

4. Give students 2 minutes to write things that come to mind when they think of the word that is on their piece of butcher's paper. It might be other adjectives, or it might be celebrities. Ensure they do not write names of people they know personally (e.g. other people at school).
5. Move the groups to the next [gallery walk](#) to the right and repeat the process until each group has written on each of the pieces of butcher's paper.
6. As a whole group, discuss what the class has written for each concept and any similarities or differences.

Learning Activities

Beauty in the media

30 min

9. Give students old magazines/newspapers/print outs and more recent advertisements/pictures of celebrities.
10. Ask the students are to explore the magazines/newspapers for what they perceive to be natural beauty and consider what about beauty standards have changed over time.
11. Ask:

What do you perceive natural beauty to be?

What assumptions do we make from how someone looks?

What beauty standards have remained the same over time? What has changed/changing?

Trigger warning: Let students know we will be talking about beauty standards and some of its harmful impacts on how we think/feel about ourselves or other people.

Teaching tip: You may find it useful writing up and collecting the answers for the next four discussion questions on the whiteboard by splitting the whiteboard into three columns.

How would you describe the beauty standards of today? Think about the types of people and beauty young people like you are exposed to through movies, TV, musicians, influencers on Instagram and TikTok?

Think about the current beauty standards today we just defined. If you are an average young person today, seeing those beauty standards, how are you thinking about feeling about yourself or your body?

If you are thinking and feeling these things, how would you act - what would you do in response to these thoughts and feelings?

How would these thoughts/feelings impact how we act in relationships or when someone is trying to get a girlfriend/boyfriend/partner?

12. Say:

These often unrealised beauty standards can really impact how we see ourselves and the world around us. It can also impact how we treat ourselves, our friends and even our boyfriend/girlfriend/partners.

13. Watch 'Try' by Colbie Caillat on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXoZLPSw8U8>) [3:51min]

14. Ask students to reflect independently and silently for two minutes.

1. How do they perceive themselves physically?

2. Do they see themselves differently after seeing the clip?

15. Ask:

What are thoughts and feelings were after seeing the clip?

What is the key message of the song?

What impact does the media have on our perceptions of what beauty is and how we perceive ourselves?

16. Say:

"We are constantly receiving image-related messages from different sources about what the 'beautiful' or 'ideal' body. Therefore, it is not surprising that instead of embracing diversity in all body types, we focus on achieving perfection and judging ourselves or others. It is important to remember the filters people use, the lighting and angles when viewing images. It is okay if your body does not match with the people you see online. Every body is different and diversity is wonderful. What is healthy, strong and beautiful and happy look different for everyone."

3-2-1 Reflection

Snowball

10 minutes

17. Give each person in a small group a piece of the same coloured paper. Make sure each small group has a different colour.

18. Each person writes their name on their piece of paper then scrunches it up to resemble a snowball.

19. Teacher says 'snowball' and everyone throws their snowball to the group to the right of them.

20. Each person then picks up or catches a snowball from the group to the left of them.

21. The snowballs are unravelled, and one positive, non-physical affirmation is written about the person whose name is on the piece of paper (e.g. thank you for being caring).

22. The snowballs are then scrunched up and thrown to the right again and the process continues until each person has received their snowball back.

23. Give the students 2 minutes to read and reflect on the positive affirmations other people have written about them.

24. Discuss as a whole group how it feels to receive positive comments about yourself. What other comments would you write about yourself? Why?

25. Give students 1 minute to add to their own snowball.

26. Discuss as a whole group how the comments from others can impact on our identities positively and negatively.

Health Promoting Schools

Background teacher note: [health promoting schools framework](#).

Partnerships

School staff

- Have the school psychologist, youth worker or student support team provide information on what services are available to support students who may be struggling.

Families

- Give parents awareness on when this lesson will occur so they can provide extra support to their young person if required.

Education

Professional development

- The student services/student wellbeing teams are training and equipped to support students who are struggling with their body image.

Environment

Policy

- Healthy eating policies are clear not to make judgements about people.