



26th March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As part of our TY Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Programme it is planned that TYs will participate in a workshop specifically focussed on Active Consent after the Easter break. Before the workshop, it is envisaged to hold a virtual parents' information session explaining what the workshop will cover on **Tuesday 13th April at 7pm**. The session will be facilitated by the Active*Consent programme creators from NUI Galway. Some information on the programme, as explained by the programme team, is detailed below. A meeting link will be sent to your personal email address (as per school office records) on the day of the event.



The Active*Consent programme:

*The Active*Consent programme, based in the School of Psychology in NUI Galway, has been working for over 10 years with young people aged between 15 and 24 years, educators and parents to develop important resources to support our children. All these resources are based on Irish data and we work alongside young people to ensure that workshops and other resources are engaging, relevant and effective in raising awareness, sharing knowledge and skills.*

We have been providing workshops to first year college students since 2016; reaching almost 17,000 students with our online workshop in 2020. In March 2020, we piloted our workshop for secondary school students responding to demands from parents, young people and teachers for the reform of the RSE programme and the need to educate our children about sexual consent. Well-taught RSE gives essential tools for life, strengthening young people's ability to make conscious, satisfying, healthy and respectful choices within their relationships and to stay safe both on and offline. Plus, when young people are healthy and happy, feel safe, and secure in school they do better.

Talking about sex and relationships does not encourage young people to go out and have sex. On the contrary consent skills are essential when it comes to intimate interactions



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where the consequences of getting it wrong is the difference between sharing a positive intimate experience and having an abusive experience. We need conversations about consent to become as ordinary as putting on a seat belt.

*Our work is funded with the philanthropic backing of Lifes2 Good Foundation and RETHINK Ireland. Despite the impact of Covid-19 on the education system, we continue to adapt and deliver our programme. We are already working with schools across the country, who have helped us survey TY and 5th Years, piloted the workshop before lockdown and teachers have been working with us to get trained to co-facilitate the workshop either in Covid friendly ways in class or online. Teachers in your school are working with us at the moment as their plan is to co-facilitate the school workshop to pupils from TY. So, before the workshops roll out we would like to share with you why and what we are planning to deliver; then, if you wish, you could continue the conversation and discussion at home. Should you prefer your daughter not to participate in the Active*Consent programme or have a concern particular to your daughter you would like to share with the school beforehand, please contact your daughter's Year Head.*

*For that reason, we are inviting you to attend an online seminar on **Tuesday 13th April at 7.00 p.m.***