



Newell Christian School

Parental Notification and Consent – Instruction on Human Sexuality Policy

Approval Date: September 18, 2025

Applies To: Staff, Students, Members of the NCS Community

1. Purpose

To ensure compliance with Section 58.2 of the *Education Act (as amended in 2024)* requiring school authorities to provide parental notification and secure opt-in consent before students participate in instruction dealing *primarily and explicitly* with gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality. This procedure upholds the right of parents to make informed decisions regarding their children's exposure to such content.

2. Guiding Principles

- The school affirms that parents are the primary educators of their children in matters related to human sexuality, gender, and religious instruction.
- Primary and explicit instruction on gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality shall only occur under the conditions of full compliance with notification and opt-in requirements.
- The school maintains a consistent biblical framework in line with its foundational beliefs, which hold that gender is biologically determined.

3. Definitions

- **Primarily and Explicitly:** Content where the principal focus is gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality, especially when tied to specific learning outcomes in health or career studies programs.
- **Opt-In Consent:** Written parental authorization required before a student may participate in the identified instruction.
- **Notification:** Formal communication to parents at least 30 calendar days in advance of any instruction related to these topics.
- **Partial Consent:** Authorization that allows a student to participate in *some* components of the instruction while excluding others.

4. Notification and Consent Requirements

4.1 Courses requiring Opt-In consent

The following subjects require advance notification and opt-in consent if instruction will deal primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality:

- Physical Education and Wellness (Grades 3–6)
- Health and Life Skills (Grades 7–9)
- CTS Courses: Reproduction & Parenting; Maturity & Independence

4.2 Courses not requiring Opt-in consent

The following subjects require advance notification and opt-in consent if instruction will deal primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality:

- Newell Christian School is an evangelical Protestant Christian school and all courses are offered from a biblical perspective. Religious instruction occurs explicitly within all courses. Parents are considered to have Opted-into religious instruction upon enrolling. No opt-out notification is provided.
- Incidental or indirect references to gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality do not require Opt-in consent.
- Religious instruction that is not primarily and explicitly about gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality do not require Opt-in consent.

4.3 Notification process

- Notification must be issued at least 30 calendar days in advance of the relevant instruction.
- Notifications may be provided:
 - At the beginning of the semester/year (overview of all relevant units), or
- Notification may be provided in written format, via:
 - Paper letter sent home with the student
 - Email to the parent/guardian
- The notification must:
 - Clearly identify the content being taught in sufficient detail for parents to make an informed decision.
 - Include the date(s) of instruction
 - Describe learning objectives and general topics to be covered
 - Inform parents of their right to provide full or partial consent
- School administration will ensure that Opt-in consent forms are tracked and follow up with parents who have not provided consent forms. This may include teachers tracking and reporting to administration.

4.4 Consent Process

- Consent must be obtained in writing, using a standardized consent form.
- The consent form must allow parents to:
 - Opt-in fully to the instruction
 - Provide partial consent, identifying specific lessons or topics
 - Decline participation, triggering alternate instruction
- Parents must return the signed consent form at least five school days before the instruction begins.
- If consent is not received, the student may not participate in the lesson and will be provided an alternate activity.

5. Alternate Instruction for Non-Participants

- Students whose parents do not provide opt-in consent will:
 - Be supervised outside the classroom
 - Receive alternate instructional activities unrelated to the subject matter

- There will be no academic penalty for students not participating due to lack of consent.
- The school is not required to accommodate parent requests for specific resources or materials to be taught.

6. Instructional materials and external parties (see 250 Admin – approval of resources)

- Any learning or teaching resource dealing primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality must be approved by the Minister of Education.
- External presenters delivering such content must also receive Ministerial approval prior to presentation.
- Resources may not be used until permission from the Minister has been received.
- External presenters related primarily and explicitly to gender identity, sexual orientation and human sexuality may not present until they have been approved by the Minister.

7. Procedure availability

- This procedure shall be made available to school parents by:
 - Providing physical copies on request at the school office
 - Including a summary in the school handbook provided to parents at enrolment

8. Special Considerations

8.1 Independent and adult students

- Students aged 18 or older, or those classified as independent students under the Education Act, may consent for themselves. But as a K-9 school this does not apply.

8.2 New enrolments

- For students who enroll less than 30 days before a scheduled unit, the school shall provide the notification at the time of registration, and written consent must still be obtained before participation.

9. Staff responsibilities

- Teachers are responsible for:
 - Identifying content requiring opt-in consent
 - Providing lesson overviews to administration for review
 - Ensuring students without consent do not participate
 - Develop a means to track consent forms
- Administrators are responsible for:
 - Approving instructional plans and materials
 - Issuing notification letters
 - Maintaining documentation of all parental consents

10. Complaints and concerns

- Direct complaints or concerns are to be made to the principal, and then to the board.
- If the issue is unresolved, concerns may be directed to the Office of the Registrar for further investigation under the Alberta Teaching Profession Commission.

