



Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Friday 16th April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of 6th Year Students,

Please find below details regarding an **information seminar for parents/guardians on the delivery of the Active*Consent Programme to our 6th Year students**. This seminar will be delivered by Dr Siobhan O'Higgins from NUI Galway. Loreto Secondary School has been working with the Active*Consent team, who have trained our teachers to work with our students in the very important area of consent.

- **What is the Active*Consent Programme?**

The Active*Consent Programme and their team members are based in the School of Psychology in NUI Galway. This team have been working for over 10 years with young people (aged between 15 and 24 years), educators and parents/guardians to develop important resources to support students. All these resources are based on Irish data and the Active*Consent team work alongside young people to ensure that their workshops and other resources are engaging, relevant and effective in raising awareness and sharing knowledge.

Parents/Guardians are the most powerful and primary source of values and knowledge for their children. However, many parents/guardians struggle to equip their children to explore and develop their independence in a social context where they may encounter sexist banter, sexting, revenge porn, sexual bullying and a rising number of sexual assaults.

Active*Consent have been providing workshops to first year college students since 2016, reaching almost 17,000 students with their online workshop in 2020. In March 2020, Active*Consent piloted their workshop for secondary school students responding to the demands from parents/guardians, young people and teachers for the need to support the current RSE (Relationship and Sexuality Programme) programme in educating students about sexual consent. 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. Additionally 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 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.

Active*Consent work is funded with the philanthropic backing of Lifes2 Good Foundation and RETHINK Ireland. Despite the impact of Covid-19 on the education system, Active*Consent continue to adapt and deliver their programmes.

- **How is Loreto Clonmel engaging with the Active*Consent Programme?**

Four of our teachers have participated in training run by Dr Siobhan O'Higgins who leads the Active*Consent team. As a result these teachers are ready to roll out an Active*Consent programme here in Loreto Clonmel to our students. This will be run across three 40-minute classes, which will be during first class each Wednesday, starting on Wednesday 28th April 2021.

In order for your daughter to participate in the Active*Consent programme here in Loreto Clonmel we will need permission from parents/guardians. We will be sending you a permission form next week and to assist you in understanding this programme Dr O'Higgins has kindly agreed to run an information seminar for parents/guardians. The information seminar will take place on **Wednesday 21st April 2021 from 7pm - 8.30pm**. A zoom link will be provided for you via your daughters 6th Year Team.

We hope to have a big turn out on the night as this is a very important topic for our students for their future safety.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Mc Grath,
Principal

Sarah Rice,
Deputy Principal

EVERYONE KNOWS YOU NEED CONSENT FOR ALL SEXUAL ACTIVITY

*But what does it mean to
have **Active* Consent**?*

*The **Active* Consent** online
workshop explores...*



How to talk about consent

*Telling your partner what you like, what
you don't like (and what you might want
to try...)*

What non-consent looks like

*Because ALL sexual activity -
whether it's kissing, sexting, foreplay or
all the way - is WAY better for everyone
with **Active* Consent***



**ACTIVE*
CONSENT**