

Whole School Approach Summation Report.

“This report provides a synopsis of the activities associated with deliverable D4.4, ‘Pilot a ‘whole school’ approach to sexual violence prevention and responses in at least two co-educational schools’, was funded by the European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC 2014-2020). The content of this report represents only the views of the Consent Ed Programme and the implementing beneficiary, Galway Rape Crisis Centre and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.”

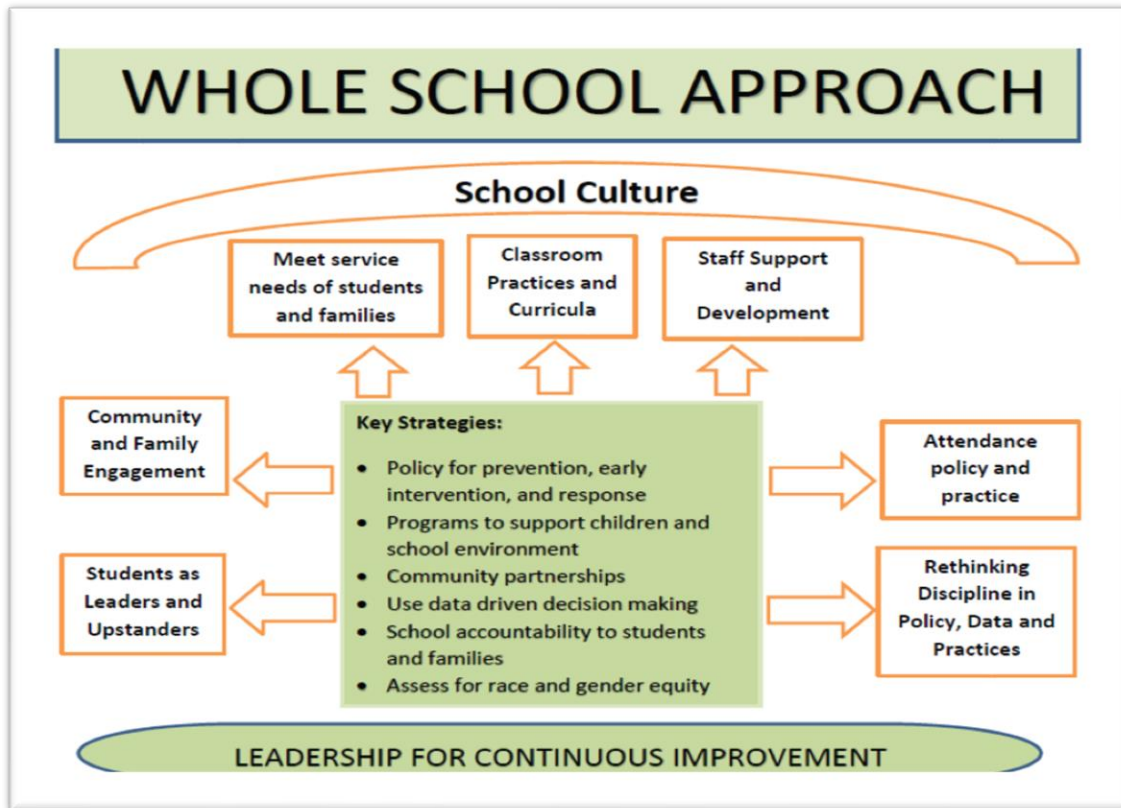
What is a whole school approach?

A whole school approach involves all members of the school community engaging in a collaborative process of change to improve specific areas of school life that impact on wellbeing (gov.ie).

It aims to raise the quality of education and standards across the entire school. For this approach to be effective, schools need to identify and address the needs of the school community and engage in continuous, cyclical processes for improvement. It is a holistic approach.

It also extends the learning environment from what is taught inside the classroom to how students' well-being is supported outside the classroom. This type of approach is commonly recognised as characterising a health promoting school.

Whole School Approach Diagram.



Schools participating in Whole School Approach.

The two schools were chosen, and an invitation extended to each to partake in the Whole School Approach by the Consent Ed Project Workers in both areas; School 1 is located in Wexford and School 2 in Meath, both co-educational schools.

School 1

Enrolment:

Boys: 775 Girls: 757
School Year 2022/23

School 2

Enrolment:

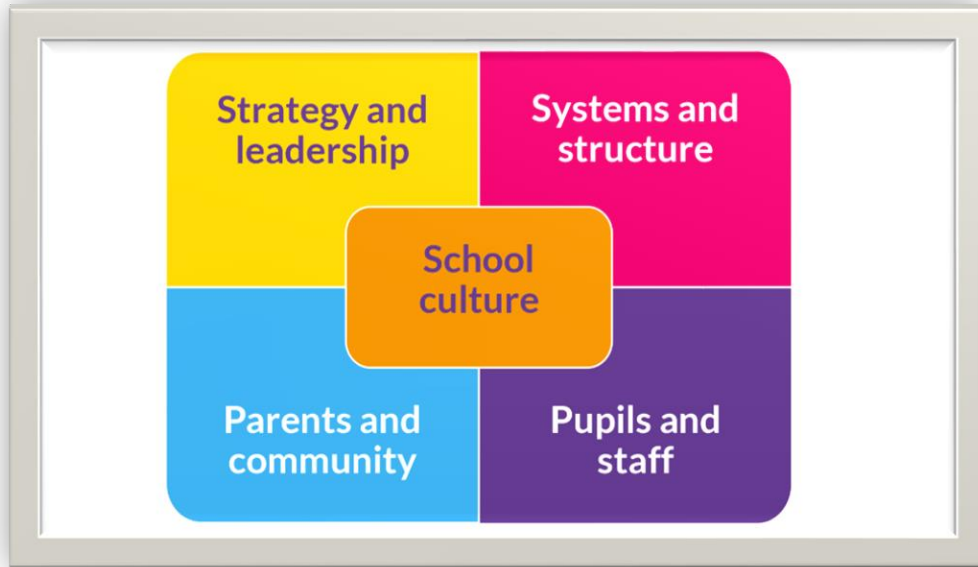
950 Students
School Year 2022/23

The rationale behind the choice of schools was their high level of interest and engagement when partaking in other aspects of the Consent Ed Project Model of Delivery. This consisted of teachers in both schools having attended teacher training, co-facilitated a programme, and subsequently led out a delivery of the programme as the lead facilitator. Both schools also had a large number of students enrolled; therefore, a larger target audience and whole school community was reachable. The two schools agreed to the Whole School Approach, with the respective Project Workers liaising and working closely with them through the process.

Whole School Approach Aim.

The Consent Ed Project divided the whole school approach into two main strands of work, in addition to the typical student pilot and teacher-training elements of the programme. The first strand focused on hosting an information event aimed at parents/caregivers of all students attending the school, along with teachers and other staff members. The second part encompassed an awareness raising campaign led by a set group of students but aiming to influence students from first to sixth year. A whole school approach works best holistically, encouraging school bodies such as boards of management, parents' councils, student councils, student bodies and other connected organisations or clubs to become involved. This aim is it will encourage the school community to come on board, work towards change and enhance sexual violence prevention throughout school communities. The hope too is for a top-down approach led by school management and principals but also a bottom-up campaign led by students that are passionate about their chosen campaign.

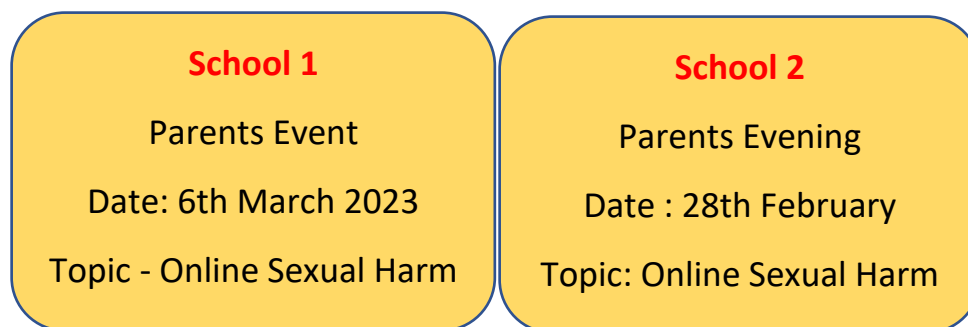
Consent Ed Plan for Whole School Approach.



Strand 1: Both Schools: Parents' Events.

As the online world grows and develops, and more aspects of our lives become digitalised, it is important that those using the internet can identify harm, are aware of how to prevent harm and know the supports available if they are a victim of online sexual harm, sexual harassment online or exposed to sexual violence online.

As part of the whole school approach, facilitating Parents' Information Events in both schools was key. These used an online forum, Zoom, giving an opportunity and an easier access route for as many parents as possible to attend. Feedback from schools stated more parents opt to attend online events than in person for a range of reasons. These events were facilitated by the Consent Ed Project Worker in each respective area, Meath and Wexford, on the topic of online sexual harm, a key topic that was explored in both our junior and senior programmes.



Strand 2: Both Schools: Awareness Raising Campaign.

Strand 2 of the Whole School Approach, the participating schools engaged in an awareness raising campaign as part of their involvement in the Consent Ed Programme. Underpinning this aspect of the whole school approach was the belief in the schools' ability to create and foster awareness and discussion on the topics of sexual violence in any construct. The brief can be individual to each school, different to the others involved, and best suited to the personality and ethos of the school and its community. It can take on any format, with student involvement as the kernel catalyst for its progression, supported by a lead teacher(s) internally within the school environment and externally by the respective Project Worker.

Wexford: School 1.



School 1 was approached and offered this initiative as one of two schools in the country as part of this EU funded pilot. The school agreed to the whole school approach with the Project Worker based in Wexford who worked closely with them throughout the process. They were very interested and engaging when partaking in the other aspects of the Consent Ed Project. Two teachers attended the facilitator training day in November 2022 and nine fellow teaching colleagues attended an 'in-service' facilitator training day in December 2022. The Junior Consent Ed Programme was delivered in November/December 2022 with the Project Worker co-facilitating part and the two trained teachers leading out the programme too as part of the MUA and Model of Delivery associated with the pilot. A total of 222 second year students engaged in the Junior programme.

Strand 1: Wexford: School 1 - Parents' Event.



The Project Worker over November and December 2022 and during the course of January and February 2023 (up to mid-term break in February) had this agreed in principle with the contact teacher in the school via email and telephone communication. The online workshop in School 1 was welcomed as part of the events/activities in their 'Wellbeing Week' in March 2023. The topic and content would position well in what the school offered over the course of this themed 'Wellbeing Week'. Both the teacher and PW agreed it would holistically support information acquisition for parents/caregivers in parallel to similar themes contained within both the junior and senior programmes. The online information event in Wexford was also supported by the Manager of the Wexford Rape Crisis Centre. The agreed procedure to be followed between the Project Worker and the contact teacher was:

Process:

- The definitive date be confirmed by the contact teacher with School Senior Management and provided following the mid-term break to the Project Worker. (Possibly week beginning 6th or 13th March 2023). Immediately after mid-term break it was agreed this event would be on Monday 6th March 2023.
- It would be an online event hosted during the evening – 6pm was agreed. It was also affirmed that the Project Worker would be invited as a guest user on the school's Teams platform.
- Communication was initiated from the Project Worker in advance seeking clarification on access, control over the power point during the presentation and reaffirming the school notify parents of the event.
- The subject matter would focus on online harm prevention and awareness for parents/caregivers providing baseline information on the topic and signposting support services. This was sent in advance the week prior to the school to have ready to utilise during the Teams meeting hosting the event with the Project Worker as the guest speaker.
- It was affirmed that the school would disseminate the information about the event through their collective communication forum.
- The week prior to Monday 6th, on Thursday 2nd March, the school requested the Project Worker create a Zoom link for the event to be then disseminated to parents. A Zoom link was set up and forwarded to the school immediately following their request for same and again affirmed in the email the school from the Project Worker they would disseminate this link to the parent population of the student community.
- The day of the event, email communication was forwarded to the lead teacher as a prompt to the event that evening, a reply was received wishing the Project Worker good luck with the proceedings from the lead teacher.
- The event, as agreed, was supported by the Manager of Wexford Rape Crisis.

Strand 2: Wexford: School 1 – Awareness Raising Campaign.



The Project Worker over the course of November and December 2022 and continued during January and February 2023 (up to mid-term break in February) continued the dialogue around the WSA events. All components were agreed in principle with the contact teacher in the school via email and telephone communication. The essence of this aspect of the whole school approach was the empowerment of students to explore and become creative in promoting the theme of “*What does consent look like in our lives?*” achieved through the students designing visual posters which succinctly deliver key meanings as to what consent it, created in both hard copy versions or digitally whichever option a student preferred. It also hoped that the students envisaged potential tag lines, ‘#’ tags, social media posts supporting the promotion of what consent is and which could be incorporated into the Consent Ed social media sites in the future and considered for inclusion for potential promotional material associated with the suite of resources attached to this pilot. The agreed procedure and process to be followed between the Project Worker and the contact teacher is captured below.

Process:

The brief was forwarded and outlined to the lead teacher in the school and email correspondence verified its purpose and rationale throughout the timeline of the whole school approach. Follow up support and guidance were also provided by the Project Worker via emails and calls with the lead teacher and a negotiation to change the submission date was supported by the Project Worker, requested by the lead teacher as moved to 10th March. Feedback was sought continually by the Project Worker the school as to the progress and status of the awareness campaign throughout the process and also confirmation proffered by the Project Worker to visit the school and meet with the students who got involved in the awareness campaign after the submission date.

- The Project Worker support the teachers and students in the process.
- The second-year students who engaged in the junior programme would spearhead the campaign creating these visual prompts about consent.
- The contact teacher would liaise with fellow colleagues to support the students in allocating time to create the posters in designated classes.

- The Project Worker would visit the school on completion to view the posters and meet with the students involved.
- It would be executed too supporting the message around the school's 'Wellbeing Week' (week beginning 6th March 2023) as this encompassed many different aspects of young peoples' lives.

Awareness Campaign Brief:

Poster Design:

Any designs were an A4 size whether landscape or portrait orientation. It could consist of a drawing, picture, tag line, '#tag, slogan, picture with a slogan whatever was the preferred option for the student. The prompts below supported the students in their planning and execution of their designs culminating into their visual representations and finished creations.

- What does everyday consent look like?
- How would you help a friend?
- Where are supports?
- Verbal and non-verbal consent – can you recognise both?
- Boundaries.
- Respect.

Purpose:

The designs were created in a vein to foster and encourage informed conversations around consent and boundaries under the umbrella of sexual violence prevention and awareness.

This awareness campaign further enhanced the holistic 'wrap around' approach in the school with teachers who were trained in the delivery of Consent Ed, who have delivered Consent Ed and the provision of the parent's event.

As a facilitator of Consent Ed, the teacher encouraged the second-year group whom they delivered the programme to as a driving force embracing this campaign and encouraged other members of the student population to become involved. Together the submissions would be displayed as prompts and 'nods' to Consent Ed around the school campus.

A total of 113 posters were created, 18 in A3 format and 95 in A4 formats capturing the students' interpretations of what consent means. They also incorporated and linked consent to sexual harassment too which together evidences their critical thinking and reflection from their engagement in the Junior Programme last year. The submissions were creative, colourful, insightful, informative, and clear about what consent is, what it means to them and how it translates into their lives.

Action Plan – Wexford.

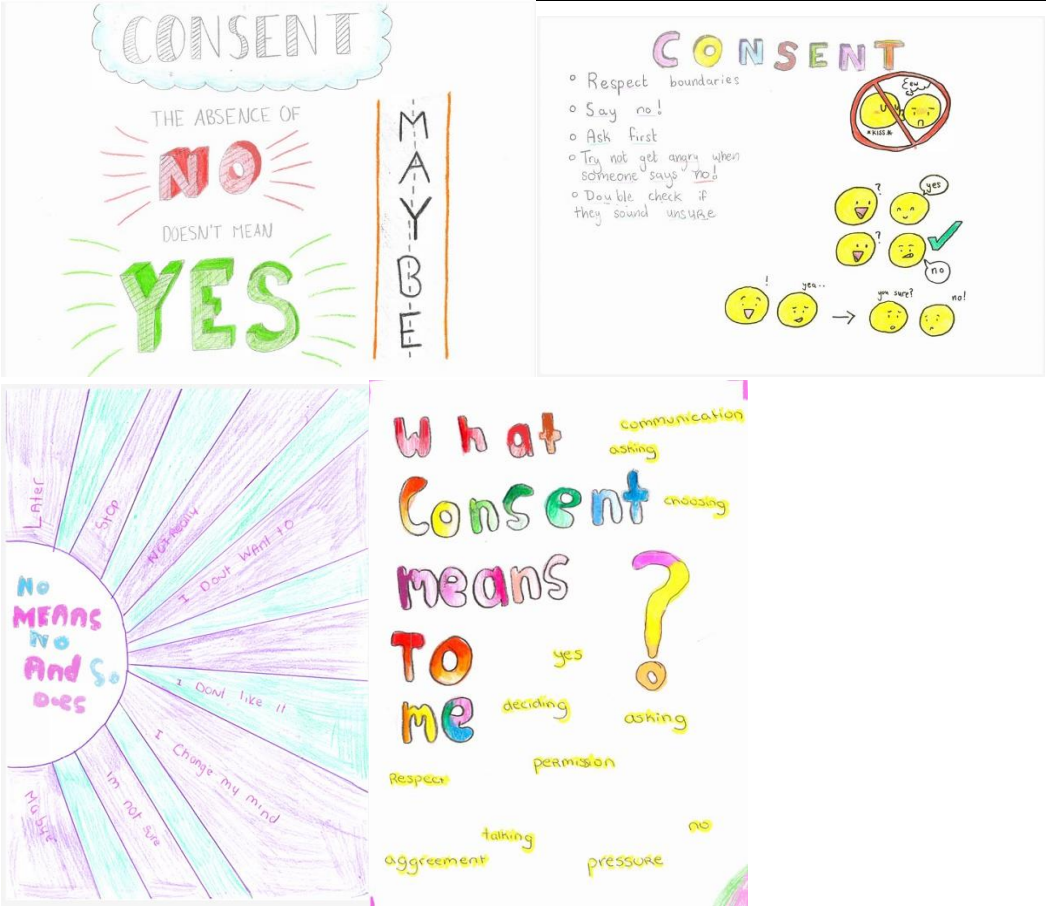
Strategy and Leadership	Systems and Structure	Parents and Community	School Culture	Students and Staff
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<p>Project Worker in Wexford operated Consent Ed Model of delivery in School 1 which was:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Co-facilitation. 2.Teachers trained. 3.Teacher led roll out of programme. <p>Whole School Approach invitation extended to School 2 who agreed to be part thereof which followed with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Inservice training day for nine more teachers. 2.Parents' Information Event agreement. 3.Awareness Campaign agreement. 	<p>Communication process ensued between the Project Worker and lead teacher agreeing to all aspects of WSA in principle, confirmation had to be sought and attained from member of Senior Management which was the Vice-Principle.</p> <p>Project Worker was a support before, during and after completion.</p>	<p>Inclusion of parents in the WSA through the provision of the information event under the umbrella of the school's 'Wellbeing Week' in March 2023. This further supported a wrap around and holistic inclusive approach to relevant stakeholders as part of the Consent Ed pilot.</p>	<p>Very open and progressive to new programmes and initiatives supporting learning and acquisition of knowledge in areas supporting their student communities personal, social, and academic developments.</p>	<p>Full second year population engaged in the junior programme a total of 222 students.</p> <p>Two teachers engaged in the Consent Ed model of delivery and co-facilitated, and lead facilitated the Junior Programme.</p> <p>A further nine teachers engaged in the Consent Ed Facilitator training supporting further inclusion of Consent Ed in the school.</p>
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Outcomes for School 1.

<p>Title and Date.</p>	<p>Evaluation.</p>
<p>Parents Evening</p>	<p>The event was a component in the suite of activities as part of the 'Whole School Approach' under the umbrella of the Consent Ed pilot.</p> <p>The online session's content had been agreed in advance and the school felt it would position very well as part of their annual 'Well-being' week giving a focus for the parents and offering something catered for them. The power point presentation was provided in advance too for the school to peruse and approve with no critique,</p>

	<p>concerns or reservations received by the Project Worker from the school in relation to same.</p> <p>The insight and feedback by the lead teacher was that this would be a very beneficial and valuable event for parents complementing Consent Ed in the school, another integral facet of delivery and engagement of the pilot.</p>
<p>Awareness raising campaign</p>	<p>This was led out by the second-year students who had participated in the Junior Programme with a total of 113 posters created. The messages conveyed within them were extremely clear in what consent is and means to them.</p> <p>It was apparent the programme content had resonated with them. The subsequent timeline from when they engaged in the programme to creating the posters demonstrated a very definitive reflective process had occurred. This resulted in the students critically thinking and analysing the subject matter which will help assimilate into their lives.</p>



Meath: School 2.



School 2 was first approached and offered participation in the EU funded Consent Ed Whole School Approach initiative in December 2022. The school agreed to it with the Project Worker based in Dundalk, Drogheda and Meath who worked closely with them throughout the process.

Up to this point, the school had been highly engaged in the Consent Ed Programme during that year. The Senior Cycle programme had been piloted with the schools' Transition Year and Leaving Certificate Applied 5th year groups in early 2022.

Three teachers attended a facilitator training day in May 2022 and two further teachers, including the Chaplain of the school, attended the later facilitator training day in November 2022. A further three SPHE teachers are now being supported to deliver the programme with their class groups by those trained teachers in the school.

The Junior Consent Ed Programme was delivered in School 1 in January 2023 with a combination of co-facilitation sessions with the Project Worker and trained teachers - following these, those teachers facilitated solo. There are also several senior cycle students that were, as of March 2023, currently completing the Senior Cycle programme with the trained teachers within the school.

Between December 2022 and January 2023, the school and the Project Worker agreed dates and times for all teacher co-facilitation, for the Parents' Information evening, and the campaign goal for the student Awareness Raising campaign, all of which are outlined below.

Strand 1: Meath: School 2- Parents' Information Event.

PRESENTS:

AN INFORMATION EVENT FOR POST-PRIMARY PARENTS & CARERS LOOKING AT ONLINE HARM PREVENTION.

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO MS. SIANNA WILLIAMS CONTRIBUTOR).

THANK YOU!

The school and Project Worker agreed the date of the Parents' evening in January 2023 in person, and via phone and email communication following this, confirmed plans for the 28th of February 2023. The online workshop for parents was included as part of the school's overall RSE programming, to both inform parents of the ways in which they could support their child's safety online, and to include them in the subject matter that their children were exploring with the Consent Ed programme. This, it is hoped, will empower them to continue these conversations at home, as the presentation mirrored the content of the Junior Cycle materials, and part of the Senior Cycle materials.

Permission was sought and granted by the Principal of School 2. The Parent's evening was hosted on the Galway Rape Crisis Centre Zoom account, and the link sent to the Chaplain and organising teacher who disseminated same to all parents of relevant year groups.

Process:

- School first approached about potential participation in the Whole School Approach in late 2022.
- School confirmed participation and planning for Parent's Information evening and brainstorming ideas for the Awareness raising campaign began.
- Provisional date for the Parent's Information evening set for the final week in February.
- Date for Parent's Information evening confirmed: 28th February 7pm.
- Online event, hosted on GRCC Zoom account, in order to facilitate meeting report and host functions given to Project Worker.
- Topics of session were confirmed with school: subject matter would focus on online harm prevention and awareness for parents/caregivers, providing baseline information on the topic and signposting support service.
- The school requested that a mention of pornography and an outline of the Consent Ed programme in general be included. Once this one –slide addition was completed, a copy of presentation for the online session was sent to the organising teacher for confirmation.
- Link to the Zoom meeting was sent out to parents and teachers on Friday the 24th of February by organising teacher, following liaising with Project Worker and Project Worker creating meeting, link and sending this on.
- On the day of the event, confirmation was sent to organising teacher, and twenty minutes ahead of the start of the session, organising teacher and the Project Worker logged on to test all media on the call and confirm settings.
- Overall, the session went very well: tech worked well, Project Worker was very satisfied, and the school were very pleased with standard and engagement from Parents and staff.
- Attendance and general feedback was very good, with parents reporting to the school that they found it very informative, and the information was very accessible and easy to digest.

Strand 2: Meath: School 2– Awareness Raising Campaign.

Throughout January and February 2023, in addition to other elements of the Consent Ed project and Whole School Approach taking place in the school, the Project Worker and the contact teacher within School 2 continued to discuss the awareness raising campaign that the students would undertake later in the year. The inspiration for the campaign would be to allow students to be empowered to creatively spread information about consent and sexual violence prevention in their own peer groups. Speaking with the Chaplain and Lead teacher for Consent Ed within the school, it was clear from her feedback that in the past year, due to students and teacher participation in the Consent Ed programme, the subjects of consent and sexual violence prevention had been at the forefront of the staff and students' minds. The school had very much embraced being involved in the programme.

Process:

The Project Worker and organising teacher brainstormed potential focuses and formats for the awareness campaign. The organising teacher spoke to the Project Worker about her experience attending the Consent Ed teacher facilitation training day in November 2022. One of the points discussed with the Project Worker and the attending teachers on this day was the fact that most schools in Ireland did not have a dedicated Sexual Harassment policy that they had officially adopted for their students and staff – most still currently rely on their general anti-bullying policy to cover any incidents of sexual harassment or other forms of non-consensual sexual behaviour that could be taking place within the student body.

It was suggested that a good awareness-raising campaign plan might be that a group of the senior cycle students currently taking part in the Consent Ed programme with their teachers would form a project group that would devise an Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy, that would then be approved and adopted by the school at large.

Awareness Campaign Brief:

- School 2 settled on a group of approximately eight senior cycle students taking on the project with organising teacher of creating a School Sexual Harassment Policy.
- The policy would be designed by students, with their own life experience and opinions informing the direction of the design process.
- The policy would be created with the assistance of their teachers and would be based upon the definition of sexual harassment presented in the Consent Ed programme, "Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual, verbal and nonverbal behaviours. This is behaviour which violates a person's dignity and creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading or offensive environment."
- However, the policy would aim to first and foremost reflect the students' hopes for and opinions of what makes a healthy school environment, and what they identify as problematic behaviours that could be seen in the school environment.
- Once a first draft is created, it will be edited and sent to the principal for approval.

Action Plan – Meath.

Strategy and Leadership	Systems and Structure	Parents and Community	School Culture	Students and Staff
<p>Project Worker in Dundalk, Drogheda, and (in this school), Meath areas operated Consent Ed Model of delivery in School 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pilot with SC students 2. Teachers trained 3. Co-facilitation of 2nd year materials. 4. Teacher led roll out of programme. <p>Whole School Approach invitation extended to BCS - agreed to take part:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents' Information Evening. 2. Awareness Campaign planned. 	<p>Ongoing communication process between the Project Worker and school Chaplain. All aspects of WSA agreed to in principle by school Permission and confirmation was sought from the school Principal.</p> <p>Project Worker supported teachers and students before the WSA process began, during and after completion.</p>	<p>Parents were included in the WSA through the provision of the Parent's information evening. This informed parents further about the subjects covered with their children during the Consent Ed sessions, and empowered parents to continue some of these lessons and conversations at home with their children. This will help to further support the holistic inclusive nature of the Consent Ed programme.</p>	<p>This school is very open to projects and programmes that promote healthy attitudes to sex and relationships. They participated in the videographer project for Consent Ed, and their student-designed sexual harassment policy will embed the learning around consent and sexual violence prevention through the whole school and general student body. This will help the school continue to support their student communities personal, social and academic development, and to continue to create a positive school culture.</p>	<p>Full 2nd year group (approximately 120 students) engaged in the teacher-led roll out of the JC Consent Ed programme in School 2.</p> <p>Three Senior Cycle groups are completing the SC Consent Ed programme with their teachers, some of whom will be in the design group for the new sexual harassment policy.</p> <p>Eight teachers total are engaged with delivery of the programme in some form, five having attended Consent Ed training previously, and three who are now engaging through facilitating with trained teachers.</p> <p>Staff members were invited to attend the Parents' Information evening also.</p>

Outcomes School 2.

Title and Date	Evaluation
Parents Evening	<p>The event was part of the suite of activities in the 'Whole School Approach' within the Consent Ed programme.</p> <p>The content of this online session met the expectations of the school, who had requested that it introduce parents to the topics covered in the Consent Ed programme and would give practical information and guidance to parents and caregivers on supporting conversations around online safety and consent in the online world at home. The Power Point presentation was provided in advance to the lead teacher for school approval, and no critique was offered, school reporting being very happy with the subjects covered.</p> <p>The session went very well: tech worked well, Project Worker was very satisfied, and the school were very pleased with standard and attendance and engagement from parents and staff.</p> <p>The feedback was very good, with parents reporting to the school that they found it very informative, and the information was very accessible and easy to digest.</p>
Awareness raising campaign	<p>This is an ongoing aspect of School 2's engagement in the whole school approach, led by senior cycle students who have participated in the Senior Cycle Consent Ed programme with their trained teachers. They are creating a student-devised sexual harassment policy, which will be approved and adopted by the school as a whole.</p> <p>The participation in the Consent Ed programme, and the Whole School Approach, has encouraged further students' engagement with the subjects of consent and sexual violence prevention, and the designing of a sexual harassment policy empowers senior cycle students by placing students at the centre, and encouraging them to take an active role in awareness and prevention of sexual violence in their school community. It also allows them to act as mentors and role models for younger year groups.</p>

Conclusion.

The aim of the Consent Ed Programme's whole school approach was to select two schools currently involved in the Consent Ed programme and helped them raise the quality of education and standards across their entire school by engaging the wider school community.

Both schools, School 1 Wexford and School 2 Meath have both been highly engaged in the programme for the past year and a half. Both schools participated in the piloting of the Consent Ed materials, and many teachers from both schools have completed facilitation training with their Project Workers and are now rolling out the programme to their own students.

In addition to teacher and students' participation, the whole school approach took the form of an Information event to engage the parents of the student body, and a student-led awareness raising campaign inspired by the topics covered in the Consent Ed programme.

Parents' Information Evenings were conducted in both schools by Project Workers via Zoom, each covering online sexual harm awareness and prevention. This mirrored and complimented the topics covered in the Junior and Senior Cycle Programmes and aimed to allow parents to support their child's classroom learning through awareness and conversations at home.

The Awareness Campaigns that took place in both schools differed in formats, a student-led poster campaign highlighting positive signals of consent and available supports for students, and the design by students of a draft Sexual Harassment Policy for the school to adopt in the future. Both projects showcased the learning that had taken place during their participation in the programme, and commitment of the students to the message of the importance of enthusiastic consent, and their furthered awareness of the impact of sexual harassment.

Both are committed to the continued rolling out of the Consent Ed Programme within their schools by their trained teachers, and students have responded very well to their experience of the programme.