

Office of the Commissioner for Children

The Office believes that society's approach to sexual relations between minors should be more educational than legal. Hence, minors who engage in sexual relations with one another should not be criminalised as long as these relations are consensual and not abusive of either party involved in the relations. The law should be there to curb the phenomenon of adults who engage in sexual relations with minors, whether this is consensual or not.

Minors should be able to benefit from a solid programme of sex education which is **holistic**, i.e. places sex within the framework of stable human relationships based on genuine and mutual love and respect; is **continuous** from the youngest to the oldest ages of childhood; is **non-judgmental**, in that it does not judge the sexual beliefs and practices of children and youth, as long as these are not abusive, but guides them along a path of discovery of their sexuality; and is **differentiated**, in so much as it adapts to each individual child and youth according to his/her degree of psycho-sexual development. Families and schools bear equal and complimentary responsibilities for delivering this kind of sex education to children and youths.