

POLICY ON LEARNER PREGNANCY

AIM:

This policy is aimed at:

- making school girls aware of the fact that they put their health and future at risk when they become pregnant.

RISKS INVOLVED IN LEARNER PREGNANCIES

- The risk for teenage mothers not to complete their school careers is very big.
- Their chance to find a job is much less than that of their friends.
- Teenage mothers can become single parents and live in poverty.
- Learners who do not finish school can also become an economic burden to society.

POSITION REGARDING PREGNANT LEARNERS

- According to the South African Schools Act no learner who gets pregnant should be prevented from attending classes.
- Although our school encourages learners to complete their education, we also expect our learners to accept responsibility for their actions.
- Schools are places for learning and not for giving birth.

HANDLING OF LEARNER PREGNANCIES

- Staff development sessions as well as support and training for parents and governing bodies on how to handle pregnant learners.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the school about his/her girl child's pregnancy.
- Promotion of awareness of teenage pregnancies amongst girls in schools by clinic sisters.
- Partnerships with non-government organizations and the media to introduce educational and communicational programmes on how to prevent teenage pregnancies.
- Closer synchronization with learning area or life orientation.
- No school girl should be allowed to return to school in the same year that she leaves school due to pregnancy.
- A learner who returns to school after having given birth should submit medical reports to the school to confirm that she is physically ready to return to school.
- These learners should also be able to prove that proper arrangements have been made for the care and safety of the baby.
- The parents shall be caused to support the pregnant learner and be physically within reach by the school for anything that may occur in the sixth month of the learner's pregnancy period.

This policy has been adopted:

_____ **Date**

_____ **Place**

EDUCATORS:

PRINCIPAL:

CHAIRPERSON (SGB):
