

# Relationships and sexuality education: A world of possibility?

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**EDUCATION AND  
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# Relationship and sexuality education (RSE) in New Zealand

NZ has a national approach to curriculum (no regional differentiation).

‘Policyscapes’ frame the possibilities:

“[t]here is an important distinction between policies as meta-discourses that shape what can be thought (policyscapes); policies as formalized rules and regulations; and policies as socially constructed enactments that span text and practice. Policy involves all three layers of action, including processes both before and after text production, and sometimes including formal evaluation processes.” Mundy et al. 2016, p. 8)

# Polycsapes

- The Treaty of Waitangi
- Legal rights
- Diversity
- Pacific epistemologies
- Digital environments
- Climate change
- Shifting social norms around gender and sexual identities



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YEARS 1-8

### RELATIONSHIPS and SEXUALITY EDUCATION

A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS, LEADERS, AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

New Zealand Government

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YEARS 9-13

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# Conclusion: is a national approach best?

- A national approach ensures that key policies are honoured: The Treaty of Waitangi, indigenous rights, LGBTQI+ rights, inclusion...
- A national approach is a kind of 'stake in the ground' for what is possible within the (historical, cultural, social, political...) policyscape
- A national approach does not guarantee translation to practice, especially without dedicated support, resourcing and professional development for teachers.

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