

OFFENSIVE MATERIALS OR THEMES POLICY

PURPOSE:

To ensure that students are not exposed to offensive or obscene materials whilst in the care of schools.

OBJECTIVES:

- To ensure that all curriculum materials and resources are to be appropriate to the students' age group and wellbeing including, student's social and moral development.
- Curriculum material and resources will be relevant to the central purposes of education and implemented with due respect for students and their parents.
- Parents/Guardians will have the right to be involved in decisions concerning the materials or themes to be studied by their children and it is recognised that the School Council is the appropriate body in which this is determined.

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Teachers are bound by the current curriculum as provided by the Department of Education and Training (DET). If the teacher is uncertain as to the suitability of materials or themes, then he/she should consult their team leader, the Assistant Principal or the Principal.
- If the Principal or School Council considers that the materials or themes are likely to be highly offensive to any relevant students or their parents, they must not be used irrespective of their educational value.
- Where the Principal or School Council considers that materials or themes might be slightly or mildly offensive there is an obligation on the Principal to issue a forewarning that the nature of the materials or themes may offend, and that parents have the right to object to the materials or themes.
- The Principal should consider the reasons for the parent's objection. In the event that any objections are upheld, schools have an obligation to offer alternative materials or themes.
- Materials or themes to be performed or displayed in public should not be presented unless the Principal and School Council consider them suitable for general exhibition.
- Teachers should heed the advice on text selection in the Current Curriculum guidelines. Texts and images should be free of language or images that would be judged to be obscene or offensive by current community standards or expectation.
- Teachers are obliged to be aware that within a comprehensive health education curriculum, there are potentially sensitive topics. These topics need to be explored with consideration given to the privacy, cultural views and personal beliefs of students.
- The Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Act 1995 applies. The classifications PG and M and MA refer to material unsuitable for persons under 15 years, and the computer games classification of MA (15+) and M (15+) refer to material unsuitable for persons under 15 years.
- Written parental permission must be sought if children are to view movies rated PG.
- At all times the school must be aware of any guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Training.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on **19th May, 2020**, and is scheduled for review in **May, 2025**.