

## Policy Statement

Curriculum resources should conform to Department of Education and Training (DET) policy and guidelines concerning materials which may be regarded as offensive or obscene. Materials and themes are to be regularly reviewed to ensure they are not offensive to students and /or their parents.

**‘Offensive material or theme’** is any material which:

- *describes, depicts, expresses or otherwise deals with matters of nudity, sexual activity, sex, drug misuse or addiction, crime cruelty, violence or revolting or abhorrent phenomena in a manner that a reasonable adult would generally regard as unsuitable for minors of the age of the relevant students*
- *describes or depicts a person who is, or looks like, a minor under 16 years engaging in sexual activity or in an indecent sexual manner or context*
- *promotes, incites or instructs in matters of crime, violence or unlawful discrimination, or uses profane, indecent or obscene language contrary to section 17 (1)(d) of the Summary Offences Act 1966.*

**‘Materials or themes’** include the use of any media such as: *curriculum materials, resource materials, textbooks, library books, publications, films, computer games, on line and electronic materials, drama scripts, performances and displays.*

Material which, in the opinion of the Principal, after consultation, where appropriate, with School Council, is considered offensive, will not be included in the curriculum.

### Guidelines

- 1.1 When deciding on the suitability of curriculum resources for a particular group of students, staff will consider materials and themes; controversial topics, materials or themes; classifications and warnings.

### Program

- 2.1.1 The selection of materials to be used with students will be discussed at curriculum planning meetings as part of normal planning procedures.
- 2.1.2 Domain Leaders and Curriculum Leaders are to review curriculum materials, resource materials, textbooks, library books, publications, films, computer games, on line and electronic materials and drama scripts purchased for their area of responsibility and performances and displays with which they might be involved to ensure that they are not offensive to students and/or their families.
- 2.1.3 The following approach will be taken in determining whether relevant students or their parents may find materials or themes to be offensive –
- a) consideration of the words, behaviour or themes in terms of the standards of morality, decency and propriety generally accepted by reasonable adults*
  - b) consideration of the impact of the words, behaviour or themes on persons from different ethnic, religious, social or cultural backgrounds*
  - c) consideration of the literary, artistic or educational merit (if any) and the general character of the material or theme, including whether it is in a media, legal or scientific journal or publication, and*
  - d) assessment of the impact of the material or theme on the age group of the students, and how parents might react to their children studying the material or theme.*

## Guidelines

- 1.2 Selections of films or online material will adhere to legal requirements.
- 1.3 Objections to the use of any materials or themes are to be made in writing to the Principal. Objections can be lodged by students, parents or staff.

## Program

- 2.2.1 X and R rated materials must not be used in schools.
- 2.2.2 If material being shown to students under 15 is rated M parents must be notified and written permission must be received from them. Teachers are to ensure that all notification forms have been returned prior to the use of the material. Alternative activities must be provided for students who do not participate.
- 2.2.3 MA 15+ material can only be viewed if the student is 15 and over or, if under 15, the student must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- 2.3.1 A decision regarding the objection will be made by a panel comprised of:
- *The Principal*
  - *The President of School Council or his / her nominee*
  - *A member of the teaching staff.*
- 2.3.2 The decision will be based on, and implemented in accordance with current DET regulations and guidelines.

## Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's 3 year cycle or as required by developments in relevant legislation.

<b>Policy drafted by:</b>	Education Committee 1998
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