



MEDIA VIEWING POLICY

Rationale:

To ensure that teaching and learning resources balance the need to provide challenging and engaging learning engagements for students with the use of materials that support the curriculum but do not offend students and the wider community due to their obscene, highly offensive or overly controversial nature.

Guidelines:

Teachers and principals need to ensure that the selection of teaching and learning resources:

- Considers the expected student learning outcomes and standards described in the VCAA curriculum frameworks
- Considers the particular needs of students
- Ensures that curriculum resources are suitable for the age group using them
- Considers the words, behaviour, images or themes of the resources in terms of the:
 - Context
 - Impact on the audience age group
 - Literary, artistic or educational merit of the material
 - Intention of the author and general character of the material
 - How parents might react to their children being exposed to the content
 - Standards of morality, decency, and propriety generally accepted by adults
 - Impact on persons from different ethnic, religious, social and cultural backgrounds.

Controversial topics will often be appropriate and important subjects of study in schools and, at times, cannot be avoided in the context of teaching and learning.

However, the contexts of controversial topics or themes about which objections can be anticipated include:

- themes related to magic or fantasy
- racial and religious themes
- sexual activity, nudity and related themes
- drug misuse or addiction
- crime, violence and cruelty
- suicide and excessively bleak scenarios
- the depiction of revolting or abhorrent phenomena
- use of inappropriate language
- satirical or comparative perspectives on race, religion or gender.

When considering the use of controversial material or resources teachers and school leaders should refer to: Executive Memorandum No. 98/048 Offensive materials or themes (located within EduLibrary/Schools/Official Memorandum, Circulars & Notices/Executive memorandum/1998).

Permission forms will be constructed as opt in forms. They will include information from the IMDb website "parents guide" for the particular film to be shown. This will give parents additional information about potential controversial contexts, topics or themes.

<http://www.imdb.com>

Implementation:

In selecting teaching and learning resources, teachers in liaison with principals need to consider the following questions:

Are the proposed	If so, then
Materials/themes within the resource that are likely to be regarded as controversial and it is reasonable to anticipate objections by the school community?	The resource cannot be used irrespective of any possible educational value
Materials/themes within the resource are controversial or likely to be regarded as inappropriate by some students or their parents?	<p>If objections to materials on the grounds that they are inappropriate are anticipated, the school must inform students and their parents of the controversial nature of the resource and inform them that an alternative is available if students or parents hold a genuine and reasonable objection.</p> <p>In the event of individual students being given alternative materials or activities, teachers should endeavour to integrate the alternative study or activity into the classroom program and ensure that the student is supported in his or her position and not isolated from other classmates.</p>
Material is a prescribed or suggested VCE text by the VCAA?	<p>These materials are appropriate for students studying VCE subjects.</p> <p>Note: It is important, however, that selection procedures should include consideration of the appropriateness of VCE materials when students in the years/age groups preceding VCE studies propose them for use.</p> <p>A student in Year 10 who is completing a VCE subject and their parents/carers, should be informed prior to their enrolment in the subject that material that may be deemed controversial will be shown as part of the course of study.</p>

Film or Computer Games Classified as:

In all cases the classification rating must be followed see: Australian Government Attorney-General's Classification website for the Information for Schools – showing films and playing computer games fact sheet.

Television classifications and warnings must also be heeded for example warnings about disturbing images, sexual references.

X, or R?	The resource cannot be used.
M	Parental permission must be obtained for students under 15
MA 15	Parent permission must be sought for all students and this material can only be seen if the student is 15 years or older; or if the student is under 15 years they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Showing Films for Non-Educational Purposes

Under an exception in the *Copyright Act* schools can play films to students for educational purposes. However this exception does not cover schools playing films to students for non-educational purposes (for example playing films on bus excursions, camps, rainy day activities and after school or holiday programs).

The Co-Curricular Licence was designed in consultation with the Australian Ministerial Council on Education Employment Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA).

The licence is cost effective and helps ensure that schools do not inadvertently breach copyright.

Note: Schools must obtain a licence to play films for non-educational purposes.

Evaluation:

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed as part of the College's four year review cycle.

References

<http://www.classification.gov.au/Public/Resources/Pages/Fact-sheets.aspx>

For more information on the Co-Curricular Licence, see: S283-2011 The Co-Curricular Licence for Screening - A Licence to Screen Films for Non-Educational Purposes

Roadshow PPL: <http://roadshowppl.com.au/>

Smartcopying: <http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/scw/go/pid/1019>

IMDb Website <http://www.imdb.com>