
VIDEO & DIGITAL MEDIA POLICY

2019 - 2023

Preamble

The purpose of this policy is to inform decision-making processes associated with the use and selection of video and digital media resources for teaching and learning.

Aims

- To give clear guidelines for selection of suitable resources that support and enhance the set curriculum.
- To ensure that teachers follow the Australian Classification and Department of Education Guidelines as well as the guidelines of the Australian Copyright Council.

Implementation

- All films and television programs shown in class must be a **part of the regular curriculum program** and referred to in the relevant curriculum planning documentation.
- This policy covers the showing of films/movies and use of computer games and digital media (online, PC or console).

Questions to ask when selecting video and digital material

- Are the proposed materials/themes within the resource likely to be regarded as offensive or obscene by the school community? (Cannot be used)
- Are the proposed materials/themes within the resource controversial or likely to be regarded as inappropriate by some students or their parents? (Alternative texts and study arrangements should be selected for students who may be involved in objections to the proposed materials on the grounds that they are inappropriate.)
- Is the proposed film or computer game/site classified as:
 - G or PG? - No parent/guardian permission is required
 - M? – **Parental permission must be obtained** for students under 15. (A letter and permission slip must be created on letterhead signed by the Principal – see notes below)
 - MA 15 or MA 15+? - This material can **only be seen if the student is 15 years or older**. For students over 15, **parental permission must be obtained**. ((A letter and permission slip must be created on letterhead signed by the Principal – see notes below)
 - X or R? – **The resource cannot be used.**

- The classification markings (indicating the classification category of the material) and consumer advice may be used to assist teachers in determining what material is suitable for their students. The classification of a film, computer game or publication may be searched on the Classification Database at www.classification.gov.au.
- **Parent/Guardian Permission Letter** – The permission letter must outline the educational purpose of the use of this film in the classroom and include information that explains why the film has this classification. E.g. Violence, mature themes, drug use, nudity, etc. A permission slip must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the teacher **before** the film is viewed. This cannot be an ‘opt out’ arrangement.
- As part of a curriculum unit or program, staff may use **excerpts** from film or television with an M or MA15+ rating. These excerpts **must not contain elements that contribute to the M or MA15+ rating**.
- It should be noted that films on the VCAA text lists have already been through a stringent checking procedure.

Related External Links

- *Copyright policy (Australian Copyright Council)*
<http://www.copyright.org.au/>
- *Australian Classification (Australian Government)*
<http://www.classification.gov.au/Public/Resources/Pages/Fact-sheets.aspx>
- *Selecting Teaching and Learning Resources (DET Website)*
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/selection.aspx>