



OFFENSIVE MATERIALS

Policy

Purpose:

To ensure that students are not subjected to materials or themes, which may be regarded as offensive or obscene.

Guidelines:

- ‘Offensive material or theme’ is any material or theme 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.
- For the purposes of this policy ‘material or theme’ include curriculum materials, resource materials, textbooks, magazines, library books, publications, films, videos, computer games, material accessed via computers, drama scripts, presentations, performances and displays.
- The Principal and School Council will ensure that materials and themes relating to our school’s teaching and learning practices, are regularly reviewed to ensure that they are not offensive to the relevant students or to their parents.
- It is the Principal’s responsibility to ensure that: -
 - the curriculum material and resources used in the school are appropriate for the students’ age group and well-being, including students’ social and moral development,
 - the exploration of issues and ideas related to the curriculum material and resources is relevant to the central purposes of education and is conducted with due respect for the students and their parents.
- If the Principal is uncertain as to the suitability of materials or themes, then he / she should consult the School Council. Similarly, the School Council should consult its parental community and exercise caution if it is uncertain as to the suitability of materials or themes.
- The Australian censorship classifications and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provide appropriate guidelines for the Principal and School Council to use in determining whether materials or themes might be considered by any relevant students or their parents to be offensive.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s four-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

March 2008