



SELECTED AND USE OF TESTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS POLICY

RATIONALE

St Maria Goretti's Catholic School, aims to help students to integrate culture, faith and life. Culture is valued and St Maria Goretti's Catholic School promotes discussion and critical thought. The values and attitudes at St Maria Goretti's Catholic School are founded upon the teaching of Jesus Christ. It is these values and attitudes which inform the selection and use of texts at St Maria Goretti's Catholic School. Therefore, the selection and use of texts is a rigorous and careful process.

PRINCIPLES

1. Texts are used to:
 - Support and develop the desired outcomes of schooling including the love and appreciation of texts.
 - Address student diversities in culture, gender, special learning needs and socio-economic background.
 - Provide students with learning experiences which access a wide range of knowledge, understandings and skills.
2. Texts enable students to:
 - Deepen their understanding of the values of Christ including absolute values such as the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person.
 - Develop a critical understanding of the diversity of beliefs and values found in society and in human experiences.
 - Develop their unique potential – physical, emotional, creative, spiritual, intellectual, moral and social.
3. Texts are not studied in isolation and are related to the contexts of their production and reception.
4. Some texts enable students, with assistance, to challenge dominant societal ideas, particularly stereotypes and undesirable models of human behaviour.

5. Texts dealing with controversial topics or challenging situations need to be selected with sensitivity to community expectations.
6. Texts containing gratuitous or extreme violence, or pornographic material, have no place in a Catholic school.

DEFINITIONS

1. The term 'text' refers to all forms of written, spoken or visual communication (Australian Curriculum, 2012).
2. The term 'non-print texts' includes but is not limited to: advertising, artefacts, CD ROMs, documentaries, film, podcast, radio broadcasts, recorded music, SMS and online material.
3. The term 'print texts' includes but is not limited to: advertising, CD ROMs, comics, current affairs cartoons, diaries, encyclopaedias, essays, feature articles, instruction manuals, journals, letters, magazines, newspapers, novels, novellas, picture books, photo essays, plays, poetry, posters, prayers, short stories, signs, SMS, song lyrics, sourcebooks, speeches, story boards, textbooks, transcripts, web pages and any printed fiction or non-fiction material.

PROCEDURES

1. Texts selected at St Maria Goretti's Catholic School are previewed and evaluated prior to their use.
2. The Principal and/or Teacher Librarian are the first people to consult for advice on the selection of texts and the Office of Film and Literature Classification Guidelines for non-print texts.
3. In selecting a documentary, feature film, television program, animated film or short film, for viewing by students, the guidelines set by The Australian Classification Board. This classification relates to all school activities:
 - a. GENERAL - Suitable for all ages. Suitable for Years K-12.
 - b. PARENTAL GUIDANCE - Parental guidance recommended for persons under 15 years. Suitable for Years 8-12.
 - c. 15+and over MATURE - Recommended for mature audiences 15 years and over. Suitable for Years 10-12.
 - d. MATURE ACCOMPANIED – Restrictions apply to persons under the age of 15. The MA category is legally restricted. Children under 15 will not be allowed to see MA films or hire them on video unless in the company of a parent or adult guardian. Some may be suitable for Years 11 and 12.
 - e. RESTRICTED - Restricted to adults 18 years and over. The R category is legally restricted to adults. Material, which is given a restricted classification, is unsuitable for those under 18 years of age. Material classified R deals with issues or contains depictions that require an adult perspective. Not suitable for high school students.
 - f. RESTRICTED - Restricted to adults 18 years and over. Not suitable for high school students.

4. Subsequent to a complaint, the relevant staff member and/or member of the Catholic Education Office shall meet the parent or guardian to discuss their concerns.
5. If appropriate, the relevant authorities at the Catholic Education Office and the School Curriculum and Standards Authority will be consulted. The Principal will have the final say on the removal of a text. In the case of a text having a number of different complaints brought against it, each complaint will be examined independently.
6. If a member of the general community makes a complaint, the nature of the complaint should be ascertained. The matter should be reported to the Principal.
7. St Maria Goretti's Catholic School has safeguards to prevent students accessing materials that are of a dubious nature, inappropriate or offensive.