

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

1.1 The school has a responsibility to ensure that students and staff are not subjected to materials or themes which may be regarded as offensive or obscene.

1.2 The school has a further responsibility that persons attending public performances by the school are not to be subjected to materials or themes that may be regarded as offensive or obscene.

1.3 Student access to the internet must be monitored to ensure that sites that may be regarded as offensive or obscene are not visited.

1.4 **For the purposes of this policy offensive or obscene is any material, theme or student work 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.

For the purposes of this policy the words *material* or *theme* include curriculum materials, resource materials, textbooks, library books, publications, films, videos, computer games, computer materials, drama scripts, presentations, performances and displays. Any texts approved by the VCAA for the VCE, can be considered as appropriate for use by the VCE students enrolled in the units for which the texts are approved. *Student work* encompasses any work that is drafted, prepared, planned or submitted for school assessment

2.0 PRINCIPLES

2.1 Teachers should consider the suitability of any materials or themes to which students will be subjected. If the teacher considers that some of the students or their parents may find the materials or themes to be offensive they should:

- replace the materials or themes with alternative non-offensive materials or themes that are available or
- if no alternative materials or themes are available refer the matter to the Principal class who will:
 - consider the purpose of introducing students to the materials or themes
 - assess the educational nature of the materials or themes and the manner in which they will be studied
 - determine whether the educational value justifies its use
 - consult the School Council and
 - if the Principal considers that the materials or themes should be used, issue a forewarning to parents

2.2 Forewarnings to parents should explain:

- the nature of the materials or themes that may offend and
- that parents have the right to object to the materials or themes

2.3 Students must not draft, prepare, plan or submit work for assessment which could be deemed as offensive under 1.4 above

3.0 HOW THIS POLICY WILL BE PUT INTO PRACTICE

Having regard to 2.1-2.3 above:

- 3.1 Students in years P-6 will be permitted to watch films and play computer games that have a G rating as determined under the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Enforcement) Act.
- 3.2 Students in years 7-12 who are under 15 years of age will be permitted to watch films that have a G or PG rating as determined under the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Enforcement) Act and play computer games that have a G rating.
- 3.3 Students aged over 15 years will be permitted to watch films and play computer games that have an M rating.
- 3.4 If the film or computer game rating does not correspond to that above, parents must be informed regarding the content and have the opportunity to object or to have their child withdrawn when the theme or material is being presented.
- 3.5 Students from years 3-12 and parents/ guardians will sign an 'Acceptable use of Technology and the Internet Agreement' prior to having access to computers and the internet. Failure to comply with this agreement will see consequences in line with the signed contract,
- 3.6 Any Apps used by students must comply with the age recommendation in the details section of the App Store Editors' notes
- 3.7 Students who draft, prepare, plan or submit for assessment any material deemed to be offensive will be advised that the material is unacceptable under this policy. Students may be given the opportunity to repeat the task using appropriate material within the parameters of the applicable assessment regimes for their year level