



ST. PETER'S COLLEGE CRANBOURNE
FAITH, EDUCATION & SERVICE

Viewing of Films and other Audiovisual Material

1.0 PURPOSE

This policy is designed to provide clarity regarding the use of films and other audiovisual material, such as computer games, in teaching and learning programs.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

Films and other audiovisual material provide rich and engaging learning stimulus. The use of film in supporting student learning has shown improvements in student writing (vocabulary, sentence structure, critical and creative thinking). Along with these benefits teachers must acknowledge the responsibility to present carefully chosen content, which is closely aligned to Victorian curriculum standards and Catholic values. This policy statement provides guidance to teachers when selecting film and other audiovisual mediums for use in classrooms.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

Classification of films and computer games

The National Classification Scheme (NCS) is a cooperative arrangement under which a Classification Board classifies films (including videos and DVDs), computer games and certain publications on behalf of the States and Territories. The Scheme commenced in 1996 and administrative support is provided by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

Under the National Classification Scheme, the States and Territories are responsible for the enforcement of classification decisions. Each State and Territory has classification enforcement legislation to complement the Commonwealth Classification Act. The Victoria legislation is the [Classification \(Publications, Films and Computer Games\) Enforcement Act, 1995](#), including amendments in 2019.

In general, films and computer games are classified as G, PG, M and MA 15+. Films may also be classified R 18+ or X 18+. G, PG and M are **advisory classifications** recommending the appropriate audience. MA 15+, R 18+ and X 18+ are **legally restricted classifications**.

Details of the classifications are to be found on the [Commonwealth's Classification website](#).

Classification of television material (other than films)

The [Broadcasting Services Act 1992](#) provides the framework legislation for television and radio broadcasts. While films that may appear on television are generally covered under the National Classification Board guidelines, television programs are classified using Television Classification Guidelines, included in the [Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice](#) coordinated by the [Australian Communications and Media Authority \(ACMA\)](#).

Classification systems for television are similar to those used in the National Classification System and include C, P, G, PG, M, MA 15+, AV 15+ and details are available from the [Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice](#).

Directions for St Peter's College:

3.1 All film/television materials and computer games must be previewed by teachers prior to use with students. The reviewer should give particular consideration to the suitability of the material in the educational context and the age and maturity of the intended audience. Consumer advice found adjacent to classification marking may assist teachers when previewing materials.

3.2 Staff should also be sensitive to cultural protocols that may be relevant to certain members of intended audiences when previewing materials. Teachers should be particularly aware that material does not breach Catholic values and respects cultural backgrounds including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

3.3 Film clips/excerpts to be used to support lessons are used at the professional discretion of the teacher. Decisions regarding appropriateness should take into account classifications, age of students, language, mature content and direct links to curriculum.

3.4 Films to be shown in their entirety must be stated within an approved UbD planner, and should be approved by the relevant Learning Area Coach. The classification guidelines (3.5) below should be followed when including a film in the course learning plan.

3.5 Classification Guidelines:

Material classified **G** is classified for general viewing. This material is generally suitable for all audiences.

Material classified **PG** should only be used with students after careful consideration by teaching staff and approval in accordance with point 3.4 above, given that material in this classification might upset, frighten or confuse some students and an adult may be required to provide guidance to students. Staff may wish to inform parents in advance of the presentation of this material to allow parents the opportunity to withdraw their child from the viewing.

Material classified **M** should only be considered for students who are **15 years and over**. Material in this classification may contain themes and scenes which require a mature perspective. The material should have particular relevance to the course of study. Decisions to show M rated films must be made in consultation with the Learning Area Coach and parents must be notified in advance via Caremonkey.

Material classified MA 15+ should only be considered for students who are **15 years and over**. This classification is legally restricted. The material should have particular relevance to the course of study and should only be considered when other related resource material is unavailable. Decisions about whether the use of MA 15+ classified films, television materials and computer games in the school will be approved, must be made by the Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching and the Learning Area Coach. All films rated MA 15+ must be notified in advance via Caremonkey.

Regardless of the students' ages, films classified **R 18+** and **X 18+** must not be shown to school students under any circumstances.

3.6 Materials approved by VCAA as a suggested or prescribed text should also follow these guidelines. Whilst, these materials are approved by VCAA for students studying VCE subjects, teachers hold ultimate responsibility for ensuring the materials used in their class are appropriate. Extra care should be taken when classes contain students who are in accelerated pathways or on the NCCD list.

3.7 Teachers should note that this advice should also be applied to any approved school excursions that may involve visits to cinemas, video game venues, associated coach/air travel or other related activity that may involve film screenings or television viewing.

3.8 Teachers must ensure that no breaches of copyright eventuate in screening any material considered suitable following review within the conditions outlined above. Schools can play films for educational instruction by way of an exemption in copyright law provided the audience is limited to persons who are receiving the educational instruction or are otherwise directly connected with the place where the instruction is given.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

UbD: Understanding by Design – the curriculum design framework used within the college.

Audiovisual – materials that include both sound and visual stimulus

VCAA – Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Copyright - a legal right that grants the creator of an original work exclusive rights to determine whether, and under what conditions, this original work may be used by others.

5.0 CONSEQUENCES OF BREACHING THIS POLICY

First Breach – official warning

Second Breach – May see a person enter into an Employee Improvement Plan

7.0 REFERENCES

New South Wales Department of Education Memorandum to Schools: https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/audio_proc.doc 2010

[Victorian Classification \(Publications, Film and Computer Games\) Enforcement Act](#)

Australian Government [Film Classification fact sheets](#)

University of Queensland [Pedagogical Benefits of Video](#)

DEET Vic [Selecting Teaching and Learning Resources](#)

8.0 REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every two years to take account of any changed technology, legislation, expectations or practices.

Implementation Date: 16 May 2019

Revised Date:

Review Date: May 2021