SELECTION OF APPROPRIATE TEACHING RESOURCES

PURPOSE

Catholic College Wodonga aims to help students integrate culture, faith and life. It values culture and fosters its critical transmission. However, underlying its approach will be the absolute values founded upon the teaching of Jesus. Careful selection of teaching resources is critical in the implementation of curriculum that underpin the ethos of Catholic College and encourages critical dialogue.

VISION STATEMENT

The Catholic College Vision and Mission supports this policy with the following statements:

- Aspires to provide a balance of spiritual, academic, cultural, physical, emotional and social learning within a child safe environment.

- Aims to provide a contemporary and challenge educational environment that fosters relationships to enhance learning for all individuals.

- Develops innovative, creative, engaging, meaningful and flexible curriculum.

DEFINITIONS

Teaching resources: include text, audio and image resources such as textbooks, novels, plays, music, films, visual art, internet materials, computer software, public performances and other forms of visual or electronic communication, including class/subject websites.

PRINCIPLES

Students should be exposed to resources which present information, ideas or attitudes which stimulate informed discussion and reflection. Such resources should be characterised by a positive appreciation of human life, in Catholic Social Teaching.

- Resources can be used to challenge dominant societal norms and ideals, particularly stereotypes and undesirable models of human behaviour.

- Resources dealing with controversial topics or challenging situations need to be selected with sensitivity to Catholic Social and Ethical teaching and community expectations.

- Resources containing gratuitous or extreme violence, pornographic material or frequent coarse language are not acceptable.

- Teachers will draw on their expertise and experience, and where appropriate with colleagues and parents, when making judgements about the suitability of a resource to the developmental age and stage of the students.

PROCEDURE

Staff Awareness

At induction of new staff, reference should be made to Catholic Social and Ethical teaching and the importance of selecting teaching resources that are sensitive to these teachings and community expectations.

Existing staff are kept up to date with developments in Catholic Social and Ethical teaching.

Resource Collection

The Resources Manager has responsibility for acquiring resources for the Collection. Resources are considered in relation to the needs of the curriculum and the social and ethical teachings of the Church. Resources that contain gratuitous violence or pornographic material will not be included in the collection.

The College ICT policy will ensure that appropriate mechanisms for filtering access to electronic resources and monitoring the appropriate use of ICT are in place. The ICT manager is responsible for ensuring that the computer software installed complies with the rating classification system.

Classification Systems

Where resources are subject to classification by the Australian Classification, the classification ratings must be applied in the selection of appropriate resources.

Film and Games

E, G or PG: The impact of the content is mild and such resources are considered appropriate.

M: The content is considered to have moderate impact and should not be used in Years 7-8. Use in Years 9–12 requires approval from the relevant Learning Coach.

MA15+: The content is strong in impact and is not to be used in Years 7-9. Approval must be sought by from the relevant Learning Coach before its judicious use in any of the College's programs.

R18+ and X18+: The content is high in impact and not suitable to be shown at the College.

Exceptions to the above require approval from the relevant Learning Coach or Deputy Principal – Learning, Teaching & Innovation.

Class Texts

Class texts should be age and level appropriate, directly related to the curriculum and be sensitive to the social and ethical teachings of the Church and community expectations. Class texts should be approved by the relevant Learning Coach before being set.

Electronic Resources

Electronic resources should be age and level appropriate, directly related to the curriculum and be sensitive to the social and ethical teachings of the Church and community expectations. Electronic resources should be thoroughly vetted by the class teacher prior to use.

Textbook Selection

The text will be considered as a means to support the current broad range of learning and teaching strategies employed in the classroom.

Guidelines for the choice of textbook (excluding novels):

- The content of the text needs to be consistent with the philosophy of the school

- The learning activities should cater for a range of learning abilities and styles and the developmental stages of students

- The texts should be engaging and not overwhelming

- The text uses accessible language and a design layout that logically sequences material

- Texts would need to appear on the booklist for a minimum of three years (subject to availability). Even when editions change the original text will be listed on the book list

- Texts would need to be accessed on a regular basis and should be used extensively throughout the year, therefore represent value for money

- The text content should cover as much of the course content as possible

- E-books/text should be considered

Year 7-9 Learning and Teaching Leaders and/or Learning Coaches oversee the text selection process, which should be completed by the end of Term 3 each year.

The Deputy Principal Learning, Teaching and Innovation will review the recommendations for booklists prior to finalisation.

OBJECTION TO THE USE OF A RESOURCE

Where a member of the community objects to the use of a resource, the following procedures will be in place:

Investigation

- The objection will be made to the Deputy Principal Learning, Teaching and Innovation who will conduct an investigation. This may include but is not limited to: discussions with relevant staff, viewing/reading/using the resource, discussions with other schools.

- A determination will be made by the Deputy Principal Learning, Teaching and Innovation and the complainant informed of the decision.

RELATED MATERIAL

- CCW Learning and Teaching Policy
- Victorian Curriculum F-10
- VCAA Guidelines VCAL / VCE/ VET
- Catholic Social Teachings
- Australian Classifications
- CCW ICT Policy
- CCW Responsible Digital Citizenship Protocol