



St Brigid's College Selection and Use of Texts

Introduction

St Brigid's College, as a Catholic school, aims to help students to integrate culture, faith and life through engaging in critical thinking and discussion. Our values are founded upon the teaching of Jesus Christ, the guiding principles of the Western Australian Curriculum, and the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile attributes. It is these values which inform the selection and use of texts at St Brigid's College. Therefore, selection and use of texts is a rigorous and careful process.

Purpose

- a) Texts are used to:
 - support and develop the desired outcomes of schooling including love and appreciation of texts
 - address student diversities in culture, gender, special learning needs and socio-economic background
 - provide students with learning experiences which develop knowledge and skills of local and global significance
 - develop greater understandings and perspectives, promoting a balanced inquiry process.
- b) 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
 - develop themselves as internationally minded individuals who understand they are caretakers of the planet, upholding a belief in a peaceful planet.

Definitions

- 1.0 Texts can be written, visual, spoken or multi-modal; in print or digital / online forms.
- 2.0 Multi-modal texts combine several modes of communication, such as print text, visual images, soundtrack and the spoken word. They include advertisements, graphic novels and computer presentation software.
- 3.0 Visual texts communicate primarily through visual images. They include text types such as film (including extracts from), documentary (including extracts from) and static images.
- 4.0 Written texts communicate primarily through the written word. They include text types such as essays, articles and poems.
- 5.0 Audio texts communicate primarily through spoken word. They include text types such

as speeches, radio broadcasts and recited prayers

Coverage

This policy is relevant to all teaching staff and students of St Brigid's College.

Procedures

1. Texts used at St Brigid's College are previewed and evaluated prior to their use.
2. The relevant Curriculum Team Leader / Deputy Principal are the first people to consult for advice on the selection of texts.
3. In selecting a non-fiction or fiction text, any recommended or prescribed text lists provided by The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) should be consulted. Class teachers will select texts suitable to our community context from the recommended or prescribed texts list. The relevant Curriculum Team Leader / Deputy Principal should be consulted if any difficulties arise in this process.
4. In selecting a documentary, feature film, television program, computer game, animated film or short film for viewing by students, the guidelines set by the Australian Classification Board apply. **This classification relates to all school activities:**

G	GENERAL - Suitable for all ages. Suitable for Years K-12
PG	PARENTAL GUIDANCE – Parental guidance recommended for persons under 15 years. Suitable for Years 8-12.
M	MATURE (15+ and over) – Recommended for mature audiences 15 years and over. Suitable for Years 10-12
MA 15+	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 view MA films or hire them unless in the company of a parent or adult guardian. Some may be suitable for Years 11 and 12.
R 18+	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.
X 18+	RESTRICTED – Restricted to adults 18 years and over. Not suitable for high school students.

5. Where the class teacher considers a text suitable (e.g. a documentary on the Holocaust which may contain graphic footage) but its rating is above the

recommended age group, the teacher must consult with the relevant Curriculum Team Leader and Deputy Principal. Permission must then be sought from parents / guardians by letter and reply slip in consultation with the Curriculum Team Leader. If a parent or guardian declines consent, then the student will need to be provided with an alternative text covering the same concepts

6. It is not the policy of St Brigid’s College to abridge a text and no text will be censored by the removal of pages or editing of footage because this contravenes the Copyright Act; however, it may be appropriate to use particular sections of a text for a class activity
7. In the event that a class teacher would like to use a text which is exempt from classification, the teacher will consult with the relevant Curriculum Team Leader and ensure that the text is previewed in full prior to use with students.
8. If a parent or guardian has a concern about the relevance or suitability of a text, this concern should be lodged in writing to the Deputy Principal, outlining the nature of the concern using the Request to Review a Text Form. Parents can access this form through the College website.
9. Subsequent to a complaint, a review committee will meet the parent or guardian to discuss their concerns. This committee will be inclusive of the Deputy Principal, the relevant Curriculum Team Leader and (if deemed appropriate) a member of Catholic Education in WA (CEWA)
9. If appropriate, the relevant authorities at CEWA and the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) will be consulted. The Principal will have the final say on the removal of a text. In the event of a text having a number of different complaints brought against it, each complaint will be examined independently
10. If a member of the general community makes a complaint, the nature of the complaint will be ascertained and the matter will be reported to the Principal
11. All care is taken at St Brigid’s College to exercise a number of safeguards to prevent students from accessing materials that are of a dubious nature, inappropriate, offensive or not suitable for their learning. These include monitoring and blocking any inappropriate material that enters the network through the College’s web filter system.

Related documents

CECWA Selection and Use of Texts in Catholic Schools Policy

Review History:

Version	Date Released	Next Review	Author	Approved
1.0	2015	2019		
2.0	2019	2023	M Lambie	