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|  | <p><b>Policy:</b> Selection and Use of Texts in Catholic Schools Policy</p> <p><b>Originally Released:</b> 2019</p> <p><b>Date for Review:</b></p> |
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## 1. RATIONALE

The Catholic school aims to help students integrate culture, faith and life. It values culture and fosters its critical transmission. Underlying its approach will be absolute values founded upon the teaching of Jesus Christ. Careful selection and use of texts is, therefore, important in the Catholic school.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

*Texts* can be written, spoken or multi-modal and in print or digital/online forms. Multi-modal texts combine language with other systems for communication such as print text, visual images, soundtrack and spoken word, as in film or computer presentation media.

*Visual Texts* includes but is not limited to: Film, video, static images.

*Written Texts* includes but is not limited to: essays, articles, newspapers, magazines, brochures, books, letters, manuals, transcripts, novels, short stories and poems.

*Audio Texts* includes but is not limited to: speeches, radio broadcasts, songs, recited prayers and poems.

*Multi-Modal* includes but is not limited to: webpages and e-books.

## 3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all St Clare's School, Lathlain Staff and Students.

## 4. PRINCIPLES

### 4.1 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 socioeconomic background, and
- provide students with learning experiences which access a wide range of knowledge, understandings and skills.

### 4.2 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, and
  - develop their unique potential – physical, emotional, creative, spiritual, intellectual, moral and social.
- 4.3 Texts are not studied in isolation and are related to the contexts of their production and reception.
- 4.4 Some texts enable students, with assistance, to challenge dominant societal ideas, particularly stereotypes and undesirable models of human behaviour.
- 4.5 Texts dealing with controversial topics or challenging situations need to be selected with sensitivity to community expectations.
- 4.6 Texts containing gratuitous or extreme violence, or pornographic material, have no place in a Catholic school.

## **5. PROCEDURES**

- 5.1 Reference to and review of this policy will be conducted with all staff annually,
- 5.2 The Assistant Principal will oversee learning with regard to selection and use of texts. Where necessary, advice will be sought from CEWA and other learning consultants.
- 5.3 In particular, the Assistant Principal will work with the English teachers to ensure selection of reading for courses, and reading material for the Library (Book Nook) are monitored.
- 5.4 Attention will be given to texts being developmentally appropriate, as well as content involving aggression, violence, and sexual references. Careful consideration will also be given to the possibilities of content triggering existing trauma in students.
- 5.4 Care will be taken to listen to the voice of the child with respect to suitability of texts.
- 5.5 Concerns raised by students, staff or parents will be directed to the Assistant Principal. If not easily resolved, the matter will be referred to the Principal.
- 5.6 Appropriate letters and blocks will be employed to minimise online risk of inappropriate material. Student reading material will be monitored by all staff.

## **6. REFERENCES**

Nil

## **7. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

CECWA Curriculum policy  
 CECWA Selection and Use of Texts in Catholic Schools Policy Template  
 ACARA, Australian Curriculum, v3.0  
 Curriculum Framework

**8. REVIEW HISTORY**

| <b>Year of Review:</b> | <b>Reviewed by:</b> | <b>Amendments/Review</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Created 2019           | AP                  |                          |
|                        |                     |                          |

**9. NEXT REVIEW**

| <b>Year:</b> | <b>Sub-Committee Responsible</b> |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 2020         |                                  |