

RATIONALE

Salvado Catholic College aims to help students to integrate culture, faith and life. All cultures are valued and Salvado Catholic College promotes discussion and critical thought. The values and attitudes at Salvado Catholic College are founded upon the teaching of Jesus Christ. The selection of texts, therefore, is a rigorous and careful process.

DEFINITIONS

1. 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.
2. The term visual texts includes, but is not limited to: film, video, static images.
3. The term written texts includes, but is not limited to: essays, articles, newspapers, magazines, brochures, books, letters, manuals, transcripts, novels, short stories and poems.
4. The term 'audio texts' includes but is not limited to: speeches, radio broadcasts, songs, recited prayers and poems.
5. The term 'multi-modal' includes but is not limited to: web pages and e-books.

PRINCIPLES

1. Texts are used to:
 - Support and develop the desired outcomes of schooling including the love and appreciation of the written word.
 - Address student diversity in culture, gender, special learning needs and socio-economic background.
 - Provide students with learning experiences which access a range of knowledge, understandings and skills.
2. Texts enable students to:
 - Develop their unique potential as a whole person – physical, emotional, creative, spiritual, intellectual, moral and social.
 - Develop a critical understanding of the diversity of beliefs and values found in society and in human experiences.
3. Texts are not studied in isolation and are related to the context of their production and reception.
4. Some texts enable students, with assistance, to challenge dominant societal ideas, particularly stereotypes and undesirable models of human behaviour.
5. Texts that deal with controversial topics or challenging situations need to be selected with sensitivity to community expectations.
6. Texts that contain gratuitous and/or extreme violence or pornographic material have no place in a Catholic school.

PROCEDURES

1. All texts which are made available to students at Salvado Catholic College are previewed and evaluated prior to their selection and use. Recommended curriculum materials and texts still need to be reviewed by the Library Assistant before inclusion in the Library or use in Learning Spaces.
2. The Principal and/or Library Assistant are the first persons to consult for advice on the selection of texts, and the Office of Film and Literature Classification Guidelines for non-print texts.
3. In selecting a documentary, feature film, television program, animated film or short film for viewing by students, the guidelines set by the Australian Classification Board apply. The following classification applies to all College 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	15+ and over MATURE - 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 see ‘MA’ films 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.

4. Professional learning will be provided to ensure that teachers have the knowledge and understandings to use the selected text.
5. Where the teacher and a member of the Leadership Team consider a text suitable but its rating is above the recommended age group, then permission must be sought from the parents/carers by letter and reply slip. If a parent/carer declines consent, then the student will be provided with an alternative text covering the same concept.
6. It is not the policy of Salvado Catholic 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.

7. If a parent/carer makes a complaint about the relevance or suitability of a text, the following procedures should apply:

7.1 Ascertain the nature of the complaint:

- content
- language
- concepts
- relevance
- religious / ideological concerns.

7.2 Refer the matter to a member of the Leadership Team.

7.3 The teacher and/or member of the Leadership Team shall meet the parent/carer to discuss the complaint where every attempt will be made to address their concerns;

- Salvado Catholic College will remove a text from its lists if there are sufficient grounds for its removal. If appropriate, the relevant authorities at the Catholic Education Office (CEWA) will be consulted, after the complaints have been examined. The Principal will have the final say on the removal of a text.
- In the case of a text having a number of different complaints brought against it, each complaint will be examined independently.
- If a member of the general community makes a complaint, the nature of the complaint should be ascertained. The matter should be reported to the Principal.
- Salvado Catholic College has Internet safeguards to prevent students accessing materials that are of a dubious nature, inappropriate, offensive or irrelevant. If this occurs, refer to the Salvado Catholic College *ICT Use by Students* policy for management.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Salvado Catholic College *ICT Use by Students* policy
CECWA policy statement *Curriculum*

Originally Released	Date of Last Review	Date for Next Review
2017	2019	2021