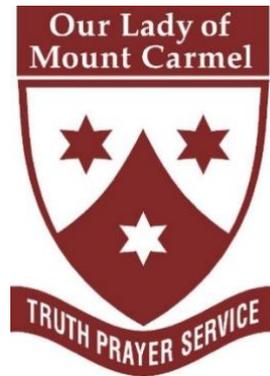


Our Lady of Mount Carmel School



Selection of Appropriate Texts Policy ***2-B1***

RATIONALE

Our Lady of Mount Carmel aims to help students integrate culture, faith and life. Culture is valued and Our Lady of Mount Carmel promotes discussion and critical thought. The values and attitudes at Our Lady of Mount Carmel are founded upon the teaching of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the selection of texts is an important and careful process.

DEFINITION

The term 'text' refers to any form of written, spoken or visual communication involving language (Curriculum Framework, 1998, p.82). They may be print or non-print texts.

PRINCIPLES

1. Texts are used to:

- Support and develop the desired outcomes of schooling.
- Address student diversities in culture, gender, special learning needs and socioeconomic background.
- Provide students with learning experiences which access a wide range of knowledge, understandings and skills.

2. Texts enable students to:

- Develop their unique potential – 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.
- 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.

3. Some texts enable students, with assistance, to challenge dominant societal ideas, particularly stereotypes and undesirable models of human behaviour.

4. Texts dealing with controversial topics or challenging situations need to be selected with sensitivity to community expectations.

5. Texts containing gratuitous or extreme violence, pornographic material, have no place in a Catholic School.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

1. Texts that are made available to students at Our Lady of Mount Carmel are all previewed and evaluated prior to their selection and use. In particular, recommended curriculum materials or syllabus texts still need to be extensively reviewed before inclusion in the library or used in classes.

2. The Principal and/or Assistant Principal 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. The document, *Guidelines for The Classification of Films and Videotapes* document is available in the Library. It should be noted, however, that these guidelines must work within the framework of this document, which forms part of the ethos of a Catholic school.

3. In selecting a documentary, feature film, television program, animated film or short film, the guidelines set by the Office of Film and Literature Classification apply. (See Chart at end of Policy). Teachers are expected to preview the text, especially in regards to cultural sensitivities.

4. This set of guidelines is to be used for any incursions or excursions involving print texts.

5. Where the class teacher and a member of the Leadership Team consider the text suitable (e.g. a documentary on the Holocaust which may contain graphic footage) but its rating is above the recommended age group, then permission must be sought from the parent or guardian by letter and reply slip. If a parent or guardian declines consent, then where possible the student will be provided with an alternative text covering the same concepts.

6. It is not the policy of Our Lady of Mount Carmel 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 or guardian 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 or guardian to discuss the complaint where every attempt will be made to address their concerns

8. Our Lady of Mount Carmel 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 (CEO) and the Curriculum Council 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.

9. 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.

10. Our Lady of Mount Carmel has Internet safeguards to prevent students accessing materials that are of a dubious nature, inappropriate, offensive or irrelevant. Students are aware that should they come across such material they are to exit the site immediately and report the incident to their class teacher or member of staff.

5. References 6. Related Documents Curriculum 2-B2