



## Selecting Teaching and Learning Resources

### -Acceptable Use Policy

#### **Rationale:**

Texts which contravene the Australian Government Attorney-General's Classification- Information for Schools advice or DEECD guidelines are unacceptable for school use. Classifications listed below reflect widely held community values and they will be respected through observation. No film or material rated M is appropriate for students in Years 7 or 8. Material with an M rating will only be screened to students aged under 15 with the written consent of parents.

#### **Aims:**

The selection of texts and resources to provide an exemplary education for our students must take into consideration:

- The qualities and capacity of the text to model the elements defined in the curriculum documents of ACARA, VCAA and DEECD,
- The Australian Government Attorney-General's Classification as stated in Information for Schools
- The potential of the text to connect to adolescent readers and engage them in constructive ideas about universal and contemporary issues of life,
- The provision of rigour to challenge existing abilities and to scaffold new learning,
- The inclusiveness of the text for readers in providing multiple entry points, multiple levels of interpretation and cultural inclusivity,
- The potential to connect to learning experiences in other areas of the curriculum and to student life,

The text as an authentic or exemplary model of its type.

#### **Implementation:**

##### **Controversial topics**

Controversial topics will often be appropriate and important subjects of study in schools and, at times, cannot be avoided in the context of teaching and learning.

However, the contexts of controversial topics or themes about which objections can be anticipated include:

- themes related to magic or fantasy
- racial and religious themes
- sexual activity, nudity and related themes
- drug misuse or addiction
- crime, violence and cruelty
- suicide and excessively bleak scenarios
- the depiction of revolting or abhorrent phenomena

- satirical or comparative perspectives on race, religion or gender.

Sensitive, appropriate and inclusive pedagogy must be developed in these areas. Teachers are requested to collaborate with experienced colleagues to ensure observation of the MGSC criteria.

**Film or computer games classified as:**

- X, or R?

The resource cannot be used.

- M?

Parental permission must be obtained for students under 15.

- MA 15?

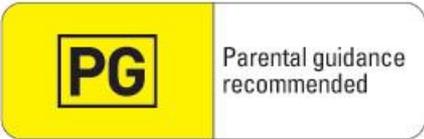
This material can only be seen if the student is 15 years or older; or if the student is under 15 years they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**Note:** In all cases the classification rating must be followed see: Australian Government Attorney-General's Classification website for the [Information for Schools – \(Copied below\)](#)

**INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS  
SHOWING FILMS AND PLAYING COMPUTER GAMES IN SCHOOLS**

This information sheet is provided to help teachers choose content that is appropriate for their students. Teachers should check their school or departmental policy for viewing films and playing computer games.

**CLASSIFICATION MARKINGS**

ADVISORY CLASSIFICATIONS	G, PG and M
	<p>The content is <b><u>very mild</u></b> in impact.</p> <p>G films and computer games are for general viewing.</p>
	<p>The content is <b><u>mild</u></b> in impact.</p> <p>PG films and computer games contain material that a parent or carer might need to explain to younger children.</p>
	<p>The content is <b><u>moderate</u></b> in impact.</p> <p>M films and computer games are not recommended for people aged under 15.</p>

Classification markings displayed on films and computer games include the classification and the consumer advice. The consumer advice gives an indication of specific content (examples are violence, language, drugs and sex) and can help teachers in choosing material

AGE CLASSIFICATIONS	RESTRICTED MA 15+ and R 18+
	<p>The content is <b><u>strong</u></b> in impact.</p> <p>A person aged under 15 cannot watch or play MA15+ films or games unless they are accompanied by his or her parent or an adult guardian.</p> <p>A guardian is a person who is exercising “parental control” over the person under 15 years of age. The guardian must be 18 years or over.</p>
	<p>The content is <b><u>high</u></b> in impact. This classification applies only to films.</p> <p>R18+ films are restricted to people aged 18 years of age and over.</p>

#### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN M AND MA 15+

Students aged 15 years or over: Can view or play M and MA15+ films and computer games by themselves.

Students aged under 15: Cannot view or play MA15+ films and computer games unless accompanied by a parent or a guardian.

#### SCREENING OF R 18+ FILMS

It **IS** an offence in all States and Territories to show an R 18+ film to people under 18 years of age and **teachers** commit an offence if they show an R 18+ film when a person under the age of 18 is present. Parents or education departments cannot give permission for anyone under 18 years to see and R 18+ film.

#### EXEMPT FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES

Generally films and computer games will display the classification markings. However, some films and computer games will not have been classified because they are exempt if they are mild in content (would be G or PG if classified) and fall within certain categories. Some of the categories include:

<b>Educational</b>	A film or software whose main purpose is for training instruction or reference, as a manual, a lesson an encyclopaedia or a guide
<b>Current affairs</b>	A film wholly comprising news reports or information about, or analysis of current

	issues or events of public interest or importance
<b>Scientific</b>	A film or software or use pursuant to a branch of knowledge conducted on objective principles involving the systemised observation of, and experiment with phenomena.
<b>Sporting</b>	A film wholly comprising a documentary record of a sporting event.
<b>Musical</b>	A film wholly comprising a musical presentation
<b>Religious</b>	A film wholly comprising a documentary record of a religious event or activity
<b>Community/ cultural</b>	A film wholly comprising a documentary record of a community or cultural activity or event

### **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information about the National Classification Scheme or to check the classification of a film or computer game visit [www.classification.gov.au](http://www.classification.gov.au) or contact (02) 9289 7100 or [cls@classification.gov.au](mailto:cls@classification.gov.au)

[g films and playing computer games fact sheet](#). Television classifications and warnings must also be heeded for example warnings about disturbing images, sexual references.

**Important:** Schools must obtain a licence to play films for non-educational purposes. See: [S283-2011 The Co-Curricular Licence for Screening - A Licence to Screen Films for Non-Educational Purposes](#)

### **Evaluation:**

**Staff are advised to consult with the English Domain regarding their choices of material in order to apply the above MGSC criteria and the following DEECD guidelines.**