



St Columba's School Bayswater

Grow in Faith Seek Wisdom Live in Peace

Selection and Use of Texts in Catholic Schools Policy

VISION STATEMENT

St Columba's Primary School aims to foster the total development of each individual, within a loving community, that is totally committed to supporting the Catholic faith, principles and ideals within the framework of the Mercy Values.

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19 January 2018

Document Title: Selection and Use of Texts in Catholic Schools Policy 2018				
Approved By	AL	Next Review Date	2019	<i>Printed copies of this document are not controlled.</i>
Originally Released	2005	Annually	Reviewed	2017, 2018

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 Catholic schools in Western Australia.

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 Each school shall develop its own policy regarding the selection and use of texts, such a policy to include:

- the procedure for selecting and using texts
- professional learning to ensure teachers have the knowledge and understanding to use the selected text
- the process for dealing with concerns regarding selected texts and/or use of text, and
- the mechanisms in place for preventing access to inappropriate and irrelevant text