This policy is based on the Department of Education and Training Office Of Schools, memorandum DN/07/00003. It provides direction to staff with regard to the use of films and computer games classified by the Commonwealth Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC).

Classification of films and computer games

The National Classification Scheme (NCS) is a cooperative arrangement under which a Classification Board classifies films (including videos and DVDs), computer games and certain publications on behalf of the States and Territories. The Scheme commenced in 1996 and is administered by the Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC).

Under the National Classification Scheme, the States and Territories are responsible for the enforcement of classification decisions. Therefore, each State and Territory has classification enforcement legislation to complement the Commonwealth Classification Act. The New South Wales legislation is the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Act 1995.

In general, films and computer games are classified as G, PG, M and MA 15+. Films may also be classified R 18+. G, PG and M are advisory classifications recommending the appropriate audience. MA 15+ and R 18+ are legally restricted categories.

Directions

1. All films and computer games must be previewed by teachers prior to use with students. The reviewer should give particular consideration to the suitability of the material in the educational context and the age and maturity of the intended audience.

2. The use of classified films and computer games requires the approval of the Principal. The Principal has delegate responsibility to each teachers Head Teacher for the approval of the use of G and PG material.

3. Material classified PG should only be used with students after careful consideration by teaching staff who should recognise that material in this classification might upset, frighten or confuse some students. Staff may wish to
inform parents in advance of presentation so that they may be given the opportunity to withdraw their child from the viewing.

4. **Material classified M** should only be considered for students who are 15 years and over. The material should have particular relevance to the course of study and should be considered when other related resource material is limited. The **Principal must approve** the use of M classified films and computer games. The Principal may delegate the task of previewing the material to an appropriate member of the teaching staff who will advise the Principal as to suitability. Parents are to be informed in advance of presentation so that they have the opportunity to withdraw their child from the viewing. For students in Years 11 and 12, informing parents in advance may take the form of a notification to parents at the beginning of the course that material classified M may be shown during the course.

5. **Material classified MA 15+** should only be considered for students who are 15 years and over. The material should have particular relevance to the course of study and should be considered only when other related resource material is unavailable. The **Principal must approve** the use of MA 15+ classified films and computer games. The Principal may delegate the task of previewing the material to an appropriate member of the teaching staff who will advise the Principal as to suitability. Parents are to be informed in writing in advance of presentation of the content and classification of the material. Parents’ written approval will be required for their child’s participation. Students who are 18 years or older and living apart from parent supervision may sign their own approval.

6. Regardless of the students’ ages, **films classified R 18+ are not to be shown** to school students under any circumstances.

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