



RANDWICK BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL
POLICY ON THE USE OF FILM, VIDEOS, DVDs AND COMPUTER GAMES

Review Date: November 2010

Implementation Date: November 2010

Preamble:

Film, DVDs, Videos and Computer Games are valuable tools in teaching. While teachers are encouraged to use film, DVDs, videos and computer games as an adjunct to their delivery of effective, stimulating lessons, there is a professional responsibility to ensure that material screened is appropriate to the audience viewing and observes the censorship classifications of the Australian Government.

Similarly, some families, because of their religious beliefs, or other concerns, may not wish their sons to view film or to use modern technology. We have a responsibility to demonstrate sensitivity to the positions of any such families who may, at any time, become part of the community of Randwick Boys' High School.

Policy:

Randwick Boys' High School will follow the stated policy of the Department of Education and Training in relation to the use of film, DVDs, videos and computer games. Staff should be aware of the relevant DET Policies:

<i>Film, videos, DVD and computer games in schools</i>	<i>DN/07/00003</i>
<i>Controversial Issues in Schools</i>	<i>PD/2002/0045/V02</i>
<i>Audiovisual Materials in Schools – Procedures for Use</i>	<i>DN/10/00296</i>

Purpose:

1. Support teachers in fulfilling their professional responsibility to select film, video, DVD and computer gaming material that is suitable to the developmental level of students in their classes.
2. Ensure all staff provide parents with the opportunity to refuse consent for their sons to view a film.
3. Ensure the relevance of material used in the film, DVD, video or computer game.
4. Ensure staff awareness of censorship classifications and the appropriate choice of materials within the classification framework.

Procedures:

1. The Commonwealth Film Censor provides censorship classifications on films, videos, DVDs and computer games and ***teachers are bound to observe these in choosing material for their classes.***
2. Where teachers choose to use a films, video, DVD or computer game, they must ensure that the censorship classification is appropriate to their class and have clear educational outcomes to be achieved from the viewing.
3. **Films, videos, DVDs and computer games classified “M” or “MA”** may only be shown to age appropriate audiences, and only after the parent has been informed in writing and has had an opportunity to refuse permission for the child to view the video. This is to be done using the attached pro forma. A copy of each letter is to be retained in the Faculty records.
4. The Principal ***must*** be advised when a teacher is planning to use an **M** or **MA 15+** rated film, video, DVD or computer game. This advice should be in the form of a copy of the consent form to parents. The consent form ***must*** be signed by the Principal.
5. The signature of the Head Teacher on the form represents their acceptance of the educational validity of the proposal to screen.
6. Teachers may wish to use the pro forma for “PG” rated films, consistent with their professional judgement.
7. Students who, for whatever reason, are not permitted to view or use the film, video, DVD or computer game, must be provided with appropriate, relevant alternative work.
8. ***Under no circumstances is any material classified “R” to be shown at school.***



RANDWICK BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

NOTIFICATION OF SCREENING OF A FILM, VIDEO, DVD or USE OF A COMPUTER GAME

Subject: _____ Teacher: _____

Title: _____ Year Group: _____

Proposed Date of Screening / Use: ____ / ____ / ____ to ____ / ____ / ____

Ratings Information:

This item is rated:

The censor advises that the item contains:

MA (15+) Restrictions apply to persons under the age of 15 years	PG Parental Guidance recommended for persons under 15 years of age
M (15+) Recommended for mature audiences 15 years and over	R 18+ Schools may not screen "R" rated material

Adult concepts	Violence
Sexual References	Drug Use

Dear Parent / Caregiver,

It is proposed to screen the above film/video/DVD to your child's class or to use the above Computer Game with your child's class. The educational reason(s) for this are:

In accordance with the school's policy, parents have the right to refuse their children permission to see a film/video/DVD or to use a Computer Game. A copy of the policy appears on the reverse of this letter. Students who do not view the video or film will be given suitable alternative work.

Please complete the attached consent form and return it to your son's teacher.

_____ Head Teacher. _____ Principal*

(* Required for M and MA15+ material)

Name of Teacher: _____

Dear Teacher,

I consent for my child, _____

to view /use _____

Parent / Caregiver

Contact No