



RATIONALE:

- Schools always acknowledge the great range of views held by parents and ensure that these views are taken into account when designing suitable learning programs. Some matters will be considered controversial by some parents, and this policy is designed to assist in making professional and considered judgments.
- Controversial but educationally valid curriculum content should not be avoided simply because they may be controversial to some people. Instead, controversial but educationally valid matters should be dealt with professionally, systematically and objectively, without bias.

AIMS:

- To ensure a wide and rich curriculum is available to students, including the professional and objective analysis of matters that may be considered controversial by some people.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Teaching approaches need to be sensitive, objective and balanced where controversial issues are considered by the school to have curriculum relevance.
- Matters that may be controversial or offensive to some people may not illicit the same response in others. However, it is reasonable to predict that some topics may be controversial to some people.
- Teachers in a pluralist, democratic society have a responsibility to ensure that students have the opportunity to consider age-appropriate issues and content objectively. At the same time they must balance their intended program against the following:
 - * the context and educational merit of the material
 - * the impact of the material on the audience
 - * the reaction of parents in relation to the material
 - * the potential impact on students and families of different cultural, religious or ethnic backgrounds.
- Materials or themes likely to be considered offensive or obscene to the majority of people in the school community are not to be used.
- Materials or themes that are likely to have an impact on students will be outlined to the Professional Learning Team, Assistant Principal and Principal before the material or theme is introduced so that those students who do not wish to participate have the opportunity to be provided with alternative activities.
- All film classifications must be adhered to, with written parent or guardian consent as required. In the event the material to be shown is not classified the teacher must show the material to either the Principal or Assistant Principal for approval.
- When teaching a curriculum subject, teachers must refrain from promoting their own personal preferences in relation to controversial matters. They should refrain from deliberate acts or words that attempt to impose their views upon students, or to use students for propagation of their own beliefs, opinions and practices.
- Provided that the above guidelines are followed, teachers will be supported by the Principal.
- Staff members concerned about the potential for a particular matter to be controversial should seek advice from the Principal prior to introducing the topic.
- Visiting speakers must be made aware of this policy and its implications.
- Complaints or concerns about teaching practice and/or content should be directed to the Principal.

EVALUATION: This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in August 2013

Name of School Council President - Sonja Josipovic

Signature of School Council President.....