



Help for non-English speakers, if you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Barton Primary School's policy requirements for selecting appropriate materials, particularly films, when viewing movies in the classroom.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all teachers at Barton Primary School

DEFINITIONS

The selection of appropriate and effective teaching and learning resources is a critical component of delivering the curriculum in Victorian government schools.

Barton Primary School teachers need to ensure that teaching and learning resources balance the need to provide challenging and engaging learning programs, with the use of teaching and learning resources that do not unreasonably offend students and the wider community.

Schools also need to be able to respond reasonably and respectfully to objections about the use of specific teaching and learning resources.

Selecting films

When selecting films for use in schools, teacher and principals must consider whether or not the film's rating is appropriate for the age level of students and that the content meets the requirement for selecting teaching and learning resources articulated in these guidelines.

The following additional actions are required prior to showing students any film or computer game:

- **G and PG rating** – No parental consent is required.
- **M rating** – Parental permission must be obtained for students under 15. Schools may wish to use the [sample consent form \(DOCX\)](#) (staff login required) for this purpose.
- **MA 15 rating** – This resource can only be shown to students who are 15 years or older. Schools should only consider showing MA 15 rated resources to students under the age of 15 in exceptional circumstances where it is critical to deliver the educational program and where parent consent has been obtained (see Resources tab for sample consent form). In all cases, students must be supervised by a teacher throughout the viewing/playing.
- **X, or R rating** – The resource cannot be used.

Note: In all cases the official classification rating must be used in determining whether the resource is suitable: refer to the Australian Government Attorney-General's classification website for the [information for schools – showing films and playing computer games fact sheet](#). Television classifications and warnings must also be heeded, for example, warnings about disturbing images and sexual references.

Important: Schools must obtain a license to play films for non-educational purposes. Refer to: [S283-2011 The Co-Curricular Licence for Screening – A Licence to Screen Films for Non-Educational Purposes \(DOC\)](#) (staff login required).

POLICY

Using movies for educational purposes can be an effective way to engage students and enhance their learning experience. Movies can bring a topic to life and provide a visual representation of concepts and ideas that may be difficult to grasp.

When using movies at Barton Primary School in the classroom, it is important to consider the age appropriateness of the movie, the relevance of the movie to the curriculum, and any potential cultural or social issues that may arise from the content of the movie.

ENFORCEMENT

The teacher (or a representative for the year level) is now responsible to communicate to parents via Compass the Movie Title, Day, Date and how it's related to the curriculum.

- As per the policy, **G and PG rating** no longer require a parent's consent.

Therefore, parents need to communicate to opt-out if they do not want their child to participate in watching the movie. Please use the below example:

MESSAGE EXAMPLE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to inform you that in the **Grade [insert year level]** cohort, we will be showing a film in a class titled **[Movie Title (in brackets the rating)]** on **[Day & Date]**. This movie directly relates to our curriculum and will enhance your child's learning experience in **[Subject]**.

During the film, your child will have the opportunity to analyse and discuss key themes, characters, and events presented in the movie. Therefore, we believe that viewing this film will enrich their understanding.

We understand that some families may prefer for their child not to watch the film, and we respect your decision. If you would like to opt your child out of watching the movie, please send a message to your child's homegroup teacher via Compass to let them know.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to teaching staff at Barton Primary School via email.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

[Teaching and Learning Resources – Selecting Appropriate Materials](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	24/04/2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	