Illawarra Christian School
Movie Use and Classification Policy

Biblical Basis

Romans 12:1-2

“1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual[a] act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Philippians 4:8-9

“8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Galatians 5:13

“13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature[a]; rather, serve one another in love.”

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

“19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. 21 Test everything. Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil”

Preamble

This policy applies to movies, television programs and audio/visual material planned for use within the school or school excursions

The above are a selection of Scriptural verses which exhort Christians to:

- Seek and glorify God in all that they do
- Seek that which is true, noble, right, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy
- Be prayerful in seeking discernment
- Test all things in the light of Scripture
- Serve one another in love
- Develop wisdom and discernment – especially when selecting content for a course of study

Christian parents are ultimately seen as having responsibility to be aware of, and to take opportunities to discuss the content of a course of study that their children are involved with. All staff at Illawarra Christian School is committed in supporting parents in this role.
Policy

The screening of movies to students, as a part of a course of study, can provide a valuable resource. It should only occur when the use of that movie is an integral part of the learning process and the time allocated can be justified within the planned educational outcomes. Any movies screened should be: owned by the school; programmed as part of the curriculum; listed amongst resources for the course of study. It is anticipated that the screening of movies should not be a passive learning activity, but should be accompanied by structured learning activities.

While movies may, under appropriate circumstances, be used for educational purposes, they should not be used during class time for entertainment purposes where course outcomes are not appropriately met.

Any screening of movies shall comply with copyright agreement/legislation.

While recognising that most material available for screening will be secular in nature and therefore not reflect the Christian ethos of the school, it is important that staff be discerning in their selection of material for screening and conscious of responding to the material from a distinctively Christian perspective. It is recognised that, due to course requirements, senior secondary students may be exposed to material that reflects a non-Christian world and life view.

Generally staff should avoid materials that:
- Undermine the Bible and Christian faith
- Promote standards, values and lifestyles that are in opposition to Christian beliefs
- May be damaging to the development of faith and commitment of students

All material should be previewed prior to use.

The following use of part or all of any movie shall apply:
- “G” classification material may be shown to students of all ages
- “PG” classification material may only be shown to students from year 7 and above
- “M” classification material may only be shown to students from year 11 and above
- “MA” classification material may not be used within the school except with the approval of the Principal. Where such approval is granted, parents shall be notified, by letter, prior to the screening of the material. If, after discussion, the parents do not wish their child to view the material, the child shall be excluded from the screening
- “R” classification material may not be used within the school