

**THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON
DIOCESAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

SUBJECT: SOCIAL MEDIA and AUDIO VISUAL POLICY – SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE)		PROCEDURE REFERENCE NUMBER SRE-002
DATE APPROVED 31 October 2018 by Bishop-in-Council		REVISION NUMBER Original
POLICY IMPLEMENTATION DATE 1 November 2018	REVIEW DATE AND FREQUENCY 3 Yearly	RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW Bishop-in-Council

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide policy guidance on the topics of social media and audio visual material in the context of the delivery of SRE in a NSW public school.

2.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to the SRE activities of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton.

This policy is not applicable to any other area of mission, ministry, employment or administration of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton including the Anglican schools of the Diocese.

3.0 BACKGROUND

Under the Education Act 1990, public schools in NSW provide two kinds of religious education

- General religious education – taught by teaching staff at the school and part of the normal curriculum
- Special religious education (SRE) – taught by people who represent their faith, are authorised, trained and may be voluntary or paid.

In NSW the most commonly taught SRE is Christianity, taught by members of approved Christian churches. The Anglican Diocese of Grafton participates in the teaching of SRE in public schools within the Diocese as a member of Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools (NSW) Inc. (ICCOREIS).

ICCOREIS represents many churches that provide religious education in public schools in NSW and encourages consultation and cooperation between members with the goal of supporting, promoting and developing quality religious education in public schools.

This policy is adapted from an ICCOREIS template policy.

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4.0 POLICY STATEMENT – SOCIAL MEDIA

This policy provides guidance and support to all staff and volunteers involved in delivering SRE as they engage in social media.

SRE teachers are supported in social media online applications such as social networking sites, wikis, blogs, microblogs, video and audio sharing sites and message boards that allow people to easily publish, share and discuss content. Social media provides an opportunity to:

- Engage and interact with our various audiences; and
- Promote teacher expertise.

The following five standards apply to SRE teachers' work use and personal use of social media at any time. SRE Teachers should:

- Always follow relevant organisational policies including the Teacher Authorisation Process - [Code of Conduct](#);
- Not act unlawfully (e.g. breaching copyright) when using social media;
- Make sure that personal online activities do not interfere with the performance of the job;
- Be clear that personal views do not necessarily reflect the views of this organisation; and
- Not disclose confidential information obtained through work.

5.0 USE OF AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL IN SCHOOLS

5.1 All audio-visual materials and computer games must be previewed by the SRE teacher 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.

Consumer advice found adjacent to classification marking may assist organisations when previewing materials. In selecting materials there should be sensitivity to cultural protocols that may be relevant to certain members of intended audiences.

5.2 The use of classified films, programs and computer games in schools requires the approval of the approved provider or delegate. The approved provider/delegate or an executive member of staff may approve the use of **C**, **P**, **G**, and **PG** material but must not delegate approval relating to use of **M** and **MA 15+** material.

5.3 Material classified **G** is classified for general viewing. There may be some material in this category that is of no interest to students.

5.4 Material classified **PG** should only be used with students after careful consideration by teaching staff given that material in this classification might upset, frighten or confuse some students and an adult may be required to provide guidance to students. Staff may

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wish to inform parents in advance of the presentation of this material to allow parents the opportunity to withdraw their child from the viewing.

- 5.5 Material classified **M** should only be considered for students who are **15 years and over**. Material in this classification may contain themes and scenes which require a mature perspective. The material should have particular relevance to the course of study and should only be considered when other related resource material is limited.

Decisions about whether the use of M classified films, television materials and computer games in the school will be approved must be made by the approved provider or delegate.

Parents are to be informed in advance of presentation so that they have the opportunity to withdraw their child from the viewing.

- 5.6 **Material classified MA 15+** should only be considered for students who are **15 years and over**. This classification is legally restricted. The material should have particular relevance to the relevant lesson plan and should only be considered when other related resource material is unavailable.

Decisions about whether the use of MA 15+ classified films, television materials and computer games in the school will be approved, must be made by one of the SRE Coordinators of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton.

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 in viewing this material.

- 5.7 Regardless of the students' ages, films classified **R 18+ and X 18+** must not be shown to school students under any circumstances.
- 5.8 Material is not to be used if its use will result in a breach of copyright. Films may be played for educational instruction by way of an exemption in copyright law provided the audience is limited to persons who are receiving the educational instruction or are otherwise directly connected with the place where the instruction is given.

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6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

<http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/ppip-act>

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

<http://www.acma.gov.au/>

Broadcasting Services Act 1992

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/bsa1992214/

Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Act 1995

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>

Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice

http://www.freetv.com.au/content_common/pg-code-of-practice.seo

Commonwealth's Classification website

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>

National Classification Board guidelines

<http://www.classification.gov.au/Guidelines/Pages/Guidelines.aspx>

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SCHEDULE 1 - SRE COORDINATORS – ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

The Reverend Zoe Everingham
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The Reverend Michael Ridge
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SCHEDULE 2 – INFORMATION ON CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS AND GAMES

1. Classification of films and computer games

The National Classification Scheme provides advice on the classification of films, computer games and television material. When selecting audio-visual material, ensure that the classification of the material is appropriate.

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

Details of the classifications can be found on the *Commonwealth's Classification website*.

Classification systems for television are similar to those used in the National Classification System and include C, P, G, PG, M, MA 15+, AV 15+ and details are available from the *Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice*.

2. Classification of television material (other than films)

The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* provides the framework legislation for television and radio broadcasts. While films that may appear on television are generally covered under the *National Classification Board guidelines*, television programs are classified using Television Classification Guidelines, included in the *Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice* coordinated by the *Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)*.