



### Preamble

The John Paul College mission statement speaks of the commitment of all members of the community to recognising the essential dignity of the person and of the need for all to experience the 'fullness of life' promised in John 10:10.

### Policy

The John Paul College community supports the principles that

- the National Classification Scheme, ABC Code of Practice, Free TV Code of Practice and SBS Code of Practice provide appropriate guidelines to use in determining whether materials or themes might be considered offensive
- the college should exercise caution if it is uncertain of the suitability of material or themes
- parents have the right to be advised if some material may be offensive to relevant students
- parents have the right to request alternative arrangement where there is a valid concern

### Computer Games

The Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Enforcement) Act 1995 creates the offence of leaving on private premises or in a public place a computer game of the classification RC or MA(15+). With respect to online computer information services, section 57 creates the offence of using an online service to publish or make available for transmission to a minor, material unsuitable for minors.

### Television, Film and Computer Games classification

The Appendix contains definitions of the classification categories. The college policy relating to television, film and computer game classifications and the screening of this material to students is based on the following principles:

- suitability of a program, film or computer game for all relevant student viewers
- a teacher's duty of care is higher than that of a parent
- parental expectation that usage is based on informed professional judgement

There is a *formal expectation* that

- the film/program/computer game is chosen for specific education purpose
- selection is in accord with community standard
- the suitability of the film/program/computer game reflects our Mission statement
- the film/program/computer game is previewed by class teacher
- teachers will abide by the classification system and use it as indicated, unless authorised by the Principal

### Permitted

- **G** allowable for all year levels
- **PG** allowable for all year levels
- **M** Years 10, 11 and 12 students.  
Year 9 students – a list of potential films and TV programs will be made available to parents of Year 9 students and sent home with semester 2 Year 8 reports late in the year prior to their Year 9 year. See appendix for sample.
- **MA** Year 12 students and students studying a VCE Unit 3/4
- All material must be classified for their suitability for both subject area and year level.

### Not permitted

- **RC** Not allowable. Staff are NOT to show any computer game or film with an RC rating
- **R** Not allowable. Staff are NOT to show any film or TV program with an R rating
- **X** Not allowable. Staff are NOT to show any film or TV program with an X rating

### Government publications

- The Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Enforcement) Act 1995
- Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games (19/03/08)
- Schools of the Future Reference Guide 1996 Section 6.22

**Bibliography:** [www.classification.gov.au](http://www.classification.gov.au)

## Appendix

### Classification categories

- **G** – General classification. Suitable for all years
- **PG** – Parental guidance. This classification signals to parents that material in this category contains depictions or references which could be upsetting, confusing to children without parental guidance
- **M** – Mature. The mature category is advisory and not legally restricted. However material in this category cannot be recommended for those under 15 years. It contains material that is considered to be potentially harmful or disturbing to those under 15 years
- **MA15+** – Mature accompanied. The MA category is legally restricted. Children under 15 will not be allowed to see MA films in the cinema or hire them unless in the company of an parent or adult guardian
- **R18+ and X18+** – legally restricted to those 18 years or over
- **RC** – Refused classification. For films that exceed R18+ and X18+ and for computer games that exceed MA15+.

### Sample letter to Year 9 parents

Dear parent

The following M rated programs may be used by teaching staff during the course of Year 9 in 20XX. Should you have any concerns regarding individual programs please contact the appropriate Faculty Leader.

Program	Subject	Faculty Leader
Romeo and Juliet	English	XXXX
Super Skinny Me	Health	XXXX
Pay It Forward	Religious Education	XXXX

These are the only M rated programs that will be used in our Year 9 program.

Yours sincerely

XXXX

**Police ratified by College Board: 16 June 2016**

**Next review date: 2021**

**Person responsible: Teaching and Learning Committee**