




<b>1003</b>	<b>Use of Media Resources Policy</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To ensure that the use of all forms of media serve Reformed education in accordance with the Object of the Constitution of the Free Reformed School Association (FRSA).
<b>Authority</b>	
<b>Policy</b>	All media resource materials selected are to support and promote the FRSA's educational objectives and reflect the duty of care owed to the students.
<b>National Principles for Child Safe Organisations</b>	Principle 10: Policies and Procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.
<b>Delegation</b>	Principal
<b>Related Policies</b>	IT004 Social Media Guidelines I004 Guest Speaker Policy
<b>Date approved</b>	Sep 2011, Nov 2014, Aug 2017, June 2020
<b>Next Review Due</b>	June 2023
<b>Review Authority</b>	Management
<b>Keywords</b>	Media; TV programs; resources; video; music; computer games, websites, streaming video services, books, magazines, newspapers.

<b>Authorised by:</b>	
<b>ESG Chairman</b>	D Swarts
<b>Date:</b>	June 2020



### **Definition**

Media resources include all print media such as books, magazines or newspapers and digital media such as video, music, computer games, websites, streaming video services, podcasts, TV, and recorded live performances.

### **Selection of resources**

- Materials are to be appropriate to the level of the intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and social development of the students in line with the values and ethos of our schools. Staff must be aware of the powerful influence which certain types of media have on students.
- Students will be offered resources that support them in developing a critical understanding of the diversity of beliefs and values found in society and in human experiences. Some resources will be selected to enable the student, with assistance, to challenge dominant ideas in media resources, particularly stereotypes and undesirable models of human behaviour.
- Schools are to be sensitive to the use of resources which deal with controversial topics or challenging situations and carefully consider the suitability of such resources.
- Schools are also to be sensitive to student diversities in culture, gender, special learning needs and socio-economic backgrounds when selecting media resources.
- Resources selected are to be stimulating, adaptable and have appropriate language (e.g. no blasphemy) and visual quality.
- Student learning outcomes are to guide the selection of media resources.
- Schools are to be mindful of the general parental views and Reformed character of the school when selecting media resources.
- Resources, such as those that contain gratuitous or extreme violence or pornographic material, have no place in our schools and are not to be used.

### **Use of resources**

- All relevant copyright laws are to be adhered to.
- All media resources, including recommended curriculum materials or syllabus materials, are to be previewed and evaluated prior to their use.
- If the use of a particular resource could be considered sensitive but is worthwhile intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and socially then the school is to:
  - Inform the parents/guardians in writing of the proposed use of the material and provide information to parents about the school's protocols regarding use of media resources. The written advice to parents could include a tear off section for the parents to sign giving their consent for the child to see the resource.
  - Acknowledge the right of parents to request that their children are not exposed to that resource.
- Where it becomes clear that there is a general concern about the use of a particular media resource, the teacher is to re-evaluate the selection. If he / she concludes the necessity of this resource for the course, he / she will engage the parents in discussion with a view to persuading them of its appropriateness or necessity. Where parents cannot be convinced the teacher will, in consultation with the Principal, either proceed with the use of the media resource (and allow students to withdraw) or decide not to use the resource. Parents who wish to take the matter further can follow the Complaints Procedure to raise or escalate their concerns with the FRSA.

**Revision History:**

Version 2. Updated June 2020