

Highfield CE Primary School

Use of Film Policy 2022



Highfield
C.E Primary School

Approved by: The governing body **Date:** 7.1.23

Last reviewed on: January 2023

Next review due by: January 2025

With the growing use of ICT in schools, films have become more popular as a valuable resource for schools, throughout the curriculum. They can help bring past events to life, in history for example and more recently used as a stimulus for children's writing.

However, we need to make sure that the films shown are suitable for children. Under the Children Act 1989, teachers have a duty of care towards their pupils, traditionally referred to as 'in loco parentis' i.e. 'in place of a parent'. Legally, while not bound by parental responsibility, teachers must behave as any reasonable parent would do in promoting the welfare and safety of children in their care.

Our school places a great emphasis on safeguarding children and wants to ensure that children are protected from unsuitable materials. The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) classifies films as: U: Universal Suitable for all. A U film should be suitable for audiences aged four years and over. However, it is impossible to predict what might upset a particular child. PG: Parental Guidance Suitable for general viewing, but some scenes may be unsuitable for younger children. A PG film should not disturb a child aged around eight or older.

Parents should consider whether the content might upset younger or more sensitive children. Whilst teachers may use clips from a variety of films through the internet (all previewed) complete films above a 'U' or 'PG' classification will not be shown. In our school we recognise the value that film has in children's education and want to ensure the safeguarding of children.

We recognise that children have very different personalities, backgrounds and experiences, and will often react to a given scene in very different ways.

As a guiding principal, U films may be shown across the school. PG films may be shown to children in KS2 and short suitable clips from a PG film may be used in KS1.

However, it is important that the teacher has determined it is suitable and appropriate for the children and that they are able to justify their reasons. It is important to make sure that any children watching are not likely to suffer any ill effects as a result of seeing the film. If teachers are unsure about a film they should seek advice from colleagues or the school leadership team, or seek parental advice for individual children. If there is any doubt then it would be safer not to show the film. The BBFC (www.bbfc.co.uk) provides teachers and parents with clear, concise, specially tailored information about films, video games and classification, helping them make informed choices about what is suitable for children. The school will purchase an annual licence to cover the screening of films for use in school and to respect the copyright of the owners of the film.