



The Edge Schools' Federation

Use of film in school policy



Last reviewed on: March 2022

Next review due by: March 2024

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 (all previewed) for specific teaching purposes, complete films above a 'U' or 'PG' classification will not be shown. Youtube and Netflix should not be viewed unless a full preview of the film/video has taken place and the certificate checked.

Pupils attending Breakfast and After School clubs where films / videos are shown should watch "U" classified films or "CBeebies" programmes online only.

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. However, it is important that the teacher has determined that the film is suitable and appropriate for the children and that they are able to justify their reasons.

If teachers are unsure about a film they should seek advice from the school leadership team and seek parental advice for individual children where required. If there is any doubt then the film should not be shown.

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.