



Library Selection Policy Maryville Christian School

If a book is challenged by a parent, faculty or staff member of MCS, the complaint must be submitted in written form before it is accepted. The complaint will then be evaluated in light of the current selection policy, by the MCS Library Committee.

This policy applies to all material located in or selected and approved by the library.

The purpose for the library is to provide materials and services, which contribute to the informational, cultural, recreational and inspirational needs and potentials of the students and staff. The following criteria will be used to determine conformity to our standards.

I. **Language.** Inappropriate language is defined as profanity or obscenity.

Grades K-3

If inappropriate language is found in a book being reviewed for this level it will be rejected.

Grades 4-6

If a minimal amount of inappropriate language is found in a book being reviewed for this level, the book may then be considered on its other merits for acceptance or rejection.

Grades 7-12

- A. If a preponderance of inappropriate language is found in a book being reviewed, the book will be rejected.
- B. If the offensive language is infrequent, is appropriate in its context, is seen as aberration rather than ordinary, and is not presented in an appealing way, the book may then be considered on its other merits for acceptance or rejection
- C. Because inappropriate language is disturbing and confusing to primary and elementary grade children, all books for grades K-6 will be more closely monitored for inappropriate language.
- D. If a book is considered inappropriate for grades K-8, but is otherwise acceptable, it will be stamped "High School Only."

II. **Sex.** In books or materials in which the subject of sex is taught, described or mentioned, the following will apply:

Grades K-6

If a book being reviewed for this level has an element of sex, the book will be rejected.

Grades 7-12

For this level the following questions will be applied:

- A. Is the element of sex functional and necessary to the story, or is it there merely for sensational effect?

- B. Is the act only mentioned or is it explicitly described beyond what is necessary for a clear understanding of the story?
 - C. What is the moral tone of the entire work?
- III. **Doctrines.** Concerning Christian doctrine, the collection should be reasonably balanced on those matters in which Christians differ by denominational traditions. There will be no materials which advocate any doctrine contrary to our school's statement of faith.
- IV. **Occult.** In the lower school, grades K-6, the following policies will apply:
- A. No book, in which the central figure or important character is evil and who triumphs will be selected.
 - B. Any book that would confuse a child as to the nature of good and evil as revealed in Scripture will not be selected.

In the upper school and middle school (grades 7-12), no materials will be selected which deal with witchcraft, horoscopes, demon possession and the like, unless, such material is presented as satanic or for the purposes of comparative religious studies.

Unless books of fantasy contain a preponderance of evil and/or the triumph of evil over good, they will be considered as separate from books on the occult. They may be considered for selection or rejection on their other merits.

- V. **Nudity.** Books containing nudity will be considered and judged according to the following criteria:
- A. If nudity is found in books or materials and is not shown in a suggestive posture, it will be judged acceptable. (For example: National Geographic)
 - B. Art books and art history will be evaluated individually concerning matters of nudity. If the picture is judged to depict erotica or conveys the intent of arousing sexual desire it will not be used.
 - C. Sex education books that explicitly depict the human male and/or female sex organs will not be used. Anatomy and Physiology books that contain this material will be kept on the teacher shelf only.
- VI. **Age Definition.** Books that require judgment because of subject matter inappropriate for elementary or middle school students will be marked on the book pocket "High School Only."
- VII. **Treatment of Controversial Subjects.** Both from a fictional and a non-fictional approach, the following guidelines will be followed:
- A. For books on abortion, those that present the Christian viewpoint will be placed on the regular library shelves. Books that advocate or present the secular view of the subject as a viable alternative will be placed on the teachers' shelf for use under teacher guidance. Books presenting the secular views of evolution may be placed on the shelves with the stamp "Evolutionary Perspective" on the inside cover.

- B. Books dealing drugs, immoral lifestyle, violence, child abuse, suicide, and eating disorders, will be evaluated by these criteria:
1. Is the element (drugs, homosexuality, etc.) functional and informative, or is it included for the sensational effect?
 2. Is the element mentioned instructively descriptive, or explicitly descriptive beyond what is necessary for a clear understanding of the problem?
 3. Is the element (drugs, immoral lifestyle, etc) either accepted as the norm or glorified?
 4. What is the moral tone of the entire work?

VIII. **Religious Holidays.** When heathen or secular customs have become intertwined in the celebration of Christian holidays, those books in which the heathen or secular elements play a major part will not be included in the Maryville Christian School library. If only a mention or a few remarks are made about such a character, the book may be considered on its other merits for acceptance or rejection.

IX. **Books that show God as unfair or His Word as untrue or mythical.** The person, nature, and work of Christ should be presented accurately and completely, and our materials should reflect His Incarnate Deity, His atoning work, and His infallibility.