WHITE ROCK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

No: 1120

Learning Resources Policy

A.   Introduction

Effective July 1, 2016, independent school authorities are required to have policies and procedures on how learning resources are chosen for use in schools. The learning resources requirement is authorized under the authority of the Independent School Act, s 4(1)(b) which states:

On application by an authority, the inspector must issue or renew a certificate classifying an independent school into one or more of the groups set out in the Schedule if the inspector is satisfied that the authority and the independent school meet (b) the educational standards established by the minister, and

Section 4 of the Ministerial Order 41/91, the Education Standards Order.

The Ministry of Education no longer conducts evaluation processes to recommend learning resources, leaving the responsibility to the school authority. This policy sets out the procedures that determine how learning resources are chosen, as well as how concerns or challenges will be addressed by **White Rock Christian Academy**.

B.   Definition of Learning Resources

Learning Resources are texts, videos, software, and instructional materials that teachers use to assist students to meet the expectations for learning defined by provincial and local curricula.

This policy is specific to learning resources which form the core program collection of resources.

Learning resources used in the classroom will be evaluated and approved by **White Rock Christian Academy** with consideration given to curriculum fit, pedagogy, social considerations, age and developmental appropriateness, as well as the school authority's philosophical, cultural and/or religious values.

C.   Learning Resources Approval Process

White Rock Christian Academy will encourage teachers to utilize education media that have been formally evaluated before being used in the classroom. This evaluation process is part of the curriculum review process.

The recommended scope of professional learning resources for review include Junior School (JK – Gr 5) and Senior School (Gr 6 – 12).

WHITE ROCK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The evaluation criteria used in determining appropriate learning resources for the school will include, but are not limited to:
- Supporting the learning standards and outcomes of the curriculum
- Assisting students in making connections between what they learn in school and its practical application in their lives
- Addressing developmental and age appropriateness
- Having effective instructional and technical design
- Meeting the requirements set by copyright and privacy (PIPA) legislation
- Suitability based on the pedagogical, social, philosophical, cultural and/or religious values of **White Rock Christian Academy**.

Evaluating resources from the perspective of pedagogical, social, philosophical, cultural and/or religious values will:
- encourage understanding and promote positive social attitudes and respect for diversity and individual differences
- ensure that BC students will see themselves and their life experiences, within a free, pluralistic, and democratic society and evidenced in the learning materials they use in their classroom
- identify potential controversial or offensive elements that may exist in the content or presentation, and highlight where resources might support positive social attitudes, diversity, and demonstrate tolerance and respect for individual differences.

Resource evaluation will be based on one or more of the following inclusion criteria: (schools will adjust criteria accordingly)
- age
- multiculturalism and diversity
- accessibility
- beliefs and values
- cultural attributes
- socio-economic factors
- humour
- ethical and legal considerations
- language
- course content, skills, and competencies
- respect for individual differences
- violence
- social responsibility
- democratic principles
- service learning
- pedagogical perspectives

D.   Authority Approval

The Board of Directors will receive and approve a list of recommended resources used by **White Rock Christian Academy** as part of an annual Head of School report.

E.   Withdrawal of a Recommended Learning Resource

Learning Resources will maintain a recommended status pending the curriculum review process.

F.   Challenge to the Use of Recommended Learning Resources

Challenges to the use of recommended learning resources must be made in writing to the academic principal of the appropriate school (Junior or Senior), identifying the learning resource and stating the reason why the resource(s) may not be suitable. Challenges will only be accepted from individuals in the school community whose children are directly engaged with the learning resource(s), educators who use the resource(s) or Ministry of Education staff.

Within 14 days of written receipt of a learning resource challenge, the academic principal will present the concern to the Leadership Team

Based on the Leadership Team's recommendation, the academic principal may dismiss the challenge, raise the awareness of the implications of using the resource with the teaching staff, communicate with the publisher and/or withdraw the recommended resource from further use in the school.

The individual issuing the challenge will be notified of the Leadership Team's decision in writing within 14 days of the decision.

G.   Sources of Learning Resources

White Rock Christian Academy may use the services of the Education Resource Acquisition Consortium (ERAC) to assist them in choosing or approving learning resources. Other sources include EbscoHost databases, Questiaschool database and Various IB authorized publishers.