

# COPYRIGHT POLICY

## Rationale:

- Copyright law protects and provides rights to authors for their work. It is essential that the school does not engage in unlawful activity that infringes upon the Copyright Act, thereby denying authors rights to which they are entitled.

## Aims:

- To ensure that members of the school or school assets are not engaged in activities that contravene the Copyright Act.

## Implementation:

- Copyright law is complex, highly specific and ever changing.
- Copyright laws apply to a wide variety of resources commonly used in schools including printed materials, sound recordings, videos, computer software and Internet websites.
- The school will comply with all copyright laws.
- The Department of Education and its schools have agreements with a number of agencies and societies, and rights within the Copyright Act itself, allowing limited rights relating to copying and copyright.
- These licences or agreements do not however allow schools to simply copy resources without restrictions or limitations.
- In order to comply with the Copyright Act and provide all staff and students with clarity regarding their copyright obligations and limitations, notices will be placed appropriate locations.
- Notices are detailed in Circular 75/2001 *Copyright Amendment Act 2000: Information for Schools*.
- Staff will be provided with information relating to copyright as provided by the Department of Education.
- In general, public viewing of hired DVD's or videos, photocopies of more than 10% of a print publication, or the copying or caching of websites or music may contravene copyright laws.
- If in doubt, the staff member must refer the matter to the principal for clarification before proceeding.
- In general, copyright of material created by an employee of the Department of Education in the course of his/her normal duties is owned by the Department.
- The IT co-ordinator will be responsible for ensuring that all software is licensed and up to date. A register of all software will be maintained by the school.

## Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

**NOVEMBER 2008**