

POLICY: Young Adult and Adult Fiction. - Parental Opt Out

Encouraging students to read is a central motivating theme and objective for the library.

All readers will 'self-censor'. If what they are reading makes them feel uncomfortable – they will stop reading or skip parts of the text. All readers will also bring their own knowledge and experiences to their own reading. The best children's authors can write about sensitive subjects in ways that the reader will not pick up on, the 'unwritten' being missed unless they bring the relevant knowledge with them to their reading experience.

Some students reach the age of 18 whilst still attending School. We aim to treat Post 16 students as adults, and encourage them as readers with age appropriate, challenging, and entertaining fiction.

These books are clearly marked, but overall, we do not limit younger children from accessing books suggested for older readers. By and large children are excellent self-censors and reach different levels of maturity at different times and may need 'older' reading material at a 'younger' age.

Some Young Adult fiction contains more adult themes and content than others. These books are in line with our Equal Opportunities Policy and are not sensationalistic. It is policy to ensure that material deemed sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise offensive is not accommodated. However, challenging material will not be excluded simply because it is challenging, and the library will offer some material that may be outside the reader's normal life experience. This will be to broaden and add depth to their studies, knowledge and understanding.

Parents have the option to opt out of allowing their children to borrow individual titles, series, or T+ (Teen+) titles. This doesn't always sit comfortably with us as, we are, by and large, opposed to censorship. Ultimately, though, librarians and teachers' beliefs aren't always the same as those of individual families. Having this opt out option is a respectful gesture to parents.