



LIBRARY SELECTION POLICY

The library aims to provide a wide range of books, both fiction and non-fiction. Books that will educate, extend and entertain the readers and books that view the world from a number of different perspectives through the medium of fiction, poetry, information books and reference books.

The library caters for an age group that passes through enormous changes both physical, intellectual and emotional in the years that they attend second-level school. The library also holds books for adults and it is well used by staff members.

It is important that students and young people be encouraged to read as widely as possible and with as few restrictions as possible. It is impossible for teachers or librarians to know exactly the right book for each reader, or to know the precise time for book and reader to be brought together. Parents are advised to discuss the reading matter with their children (as their primary educators.)

Fiction Collection

The best of modern English language fiction both of a literary and a more popular nature is considered for purchase.

Fiction in all its forms is also included - therefore Graphic fiction, Manga and Anime are all part of what is considered for purchase. Material of a more light-weight nature and best sellers that reflect life as we live it, are also included to encourage reluctant readers to make a start at reading, and also to provide entertainment and relaxation.

Selection is based on the following criteria:

- Reviews in newspapers and journals.
- Browsing in book shops and other libraries.
- Suggestions from students, staff, and library colleagues.
- Differing reading tastes are catered for in the collection.
- The collection is balanced between books for the various age groups catered for and between literary and more popular books.

Individual books are looked at with the following points in mind:

- Appearance - is it attractive?
- Plot - are the concerns of the book relevant to readers?
- Language - does the language seem genuine for the characters in the book?

- Does the book stimulate readers to ask questions about themselves and the world around them?
- Does the book reflect the tastes of day and reflect on life as we live it?

Non-fiction collection

The non-fiction collection in the library serves two purposes

- it supports the curriculum
- it provides leisure reading - general interest and hobbies

Selection is based on the following criteria:

- Reviews in newspapers and journals.
- Browsing in book shops and other libraries.
- Suggestions from students, staff and library colleagues.
- Differing reading tastes are catered for in the collection.
- The collection caters for all the various age groups that use the library.
- Identifying gaps in the collection.

Individual books are looked at with the following points in mind:

- Appearance - is it attractive?
- Are the illustrations clear and do they support the text?
- Is the level of difficulty appropriate to the age group that it caters for?
- Is the information accurate and up-to-date?
- Is the information easily located - indexes, table of contents, glossaries etc.

The above criteria for selection of fiction and non-fiction apply both to new acquisitions and to the present library stock and to any donations made to the library.

Donations to the library are welcome, but on the clear understanding that they will be treated like any other library materials and be subject to the same selection criteria.

In practice this means that donations will be treated in one of the following ways:

- Integrated into the library collection.
- Donated to charity or recycled.