



CCHS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE POLICY

2022

Rationale

The aim of this policy is to provide a clear protocol for classroom practice regarding and teaching of curriculum texts which contain offensive language. The prime focus of this protocol is the use of racial slurs, which appear in two texts on the Year 9 curriculum.

This document will set out a clear approach to dealing with the appearances of this word in the texts *Of Mice & Men* and *Lord of the Flies*.

The English department has long recognised that the word is liable to both cause offense and impact the emotional and mental wellbeing of students and it has been classroom practice to not have this word said aloud by teachers or students.

It is also the position of the department that a) both texts are of high literary value, b) teaching units on both texts are highly instructive in relation to the necessary exam skills for various sections of the English Literature and Language GCSEs, and c) past attitudes should be contextualised and openly discussed to promote useful learning for the future.

Protocol

When teaching the prose units in question, teachers should adhere to the following points:

1. To not read aloud the offensive language in question.
2. To neither direct a student to read aloud nor invite a student to optionally read aloud the language in question.
3. To flag up well in advance the presence of the language in upcoming sections of the book.
4. Students should refrain from writing the word in essays and instead use asterisks or a replacement phrase.
5. To share a slide at the start of the unit contextualising the issue, which has been produced in collaboration with student representatives and the School Development Leader/s on diversity and change@cchs.

Additionally, students should be encouraged to report any concerns to their teachers directly to ensure that they can be talked through and dealt with promptly. Any concerns will be dealt with in accordance with our Equalities Policy.