



**CCHS HISTORY DEPARTMENT
OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE AND ATTITUDES
POLICY**

2022

Rationale

The aim of this policy is to provide a clear protocol for classroom practice regarding the teaching of curriculum topics where source and texts may contain offensive language or attitudes. The prime focus of this protocol is the use of offensive words and racial slurs which may appear in the Year 9 and Year 12 civil rights curriculum.

This document will set out a clear approach to dealing with the appearances of this word in sources and texts and other words or views which may cause offence both personally or institutionally.

The History department has long recognised that certain words will cause offense and impact the emotional and mental wellbeing of students and it has been classroom practice to not to have these words said aloud by teachers or students.

It is also the position of the department that a) contemporary sources are valuable to the teaching of History and b) past attitudes should be contextualised and openly discussed to promote useful learning for the future, with caution.

Protocol

When teaching, teachers should adhere to the following points:

1. To abstain from using offensive language including slurs (or their derivatives).
2. To not read aloud offensive language.
3. To neither direct a student to read aloud nor invite a student to optionally read aloud the language in question.
4. To flag up well in advance the presence of the language in upcoming sources and texts.
5. Students should refrain from writing the word in essays and instead use asterisks or a replacement phrase.
6. To educate on why not to use the said words.

As part of History teaching, in particular the Year 9 and Year 12 civil rights topic archaic words may occur in sources, texts and even the names of organisations and legislation. Students should be made aware by their teacher that whilst such terms were not offensive in the past, today the terms are **outdated and inappropriate**, unless being quoted directly from a historical document.

Some historical sources and texts may contain racist attitudes. Students should be made aware by their teacher that such attitudes were of the time and are no longer acceptable.

Some historians used in class may have previously expressed offensive opinions in their personal or professional life. Students should be made aware that CCHS does not condone such attitudes.

Additionally, students should be encouraged to report any concerns directly to their subject teacher to ensure any concern is dealt with promptly. Students are also welcome to speak to a member of their pastoral team. Any concerns will be dealt with according to our Equalities Policy.