



# COALDALE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*"Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light for my path" Psalm 119:105*  
2008-8 Street Coaldale, Alberta T1M 1L1 Ph: (403)-345-4055 Fax: (403)-345-6436  
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## Coaldale Christian School Library Policy

Draft for Education Committee Review (03/14/26) Approved for Board (17/03/2026)

### 1. Rationale and Mission Alignment

The Coaldale Christian School (CCS) Library exists to support the school's mission of providing Christ-centred education rooted in Scripture and the Reformed confessions. The library serves to develop a love of reading, extend classroom learning through reading to learn, and allow students to explore the world through exposure to different genres.

### 2. Philosophy of Reading and Literature

The CCS Library operates within a Christian educational community that recognizes the profound formative power of reading. Literature is one of God's good gifts to humanity — a means by which we explore His world, encounter the breadth of human experience, and grow in wisdom. This is even clearer since the Reformation, which helped to bring about the ordinary person's right to read and also the corresponding responsibility to understand and evaluate the printed word.

Students today live in an information-saturated culture where messages and ideas come at them constantly. A Christian school must therefore teach students not merely to consume information, but to competently and biblically evaluate it. Reading widely — under Christian guidance — helps students learn to distinguish truth from error, beauty from distortion, and goodness from counterfeit virtue.

Because literature reflects both the beauty and brokenness of the world, not every book will be equally suitable for every student. Christians of good conscience may sometimes differ on what is appropriate for a particular age or maturity level. The school acknowledges this diversity of parental judgment and seeks to support parents as the primary decision-makers in their children's moral and spiritual formation.

The goal is not to shelter students from every difficult idea, nor to expose them indiscriminately to the world's thinking, but to cultivate discernment — the ability to read with wisdom, evaluate with Scripture, and engage the world as faithful disciples of Christ.

### 3. Guiding Principles

#### a) **Biblical Worldview:**

All materials are evaluated in light of Scripture and the Reformed confessions. Materials should overtly or subtly reinforce worldviews that affirm the supremacy of the Reformed view and exclude material that overtly or subtly subverts or undermines the Reformed worldview.



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## b) **Parental Partnership:**

Parents hold primary responsibility for their children's upbringing and moral formation. The library supports this through transparency. School library material selection and review procedure will be communicated to employees, parents and students in the school's handbook.

## c) **Educational Merit:**

Materials must enrich students' academic, cultural, and social development through a Reformed worldview.

## d) **Developmental Appropriateness:**

Content must reflect the maturity, literacy level, and well-being of students at different grade levels.

## e) **Protection from Harm:**

Materials with explicit visual depictions of sexual acts, as defined in the Ministerial Order (#034/2025), are prohibited unless for non-narrative reference purposes (e.g., medical dictionaries).

## 4. **Roles and Responsibilities**

### 4.1 **Board of Directors**

- Holds ultimate authority over library policy.
- Ensures alignment with mission, confessions, and legal obligations.
- Serves as the final appeal body for challenged materials.

### 4.2 **Education Committee**

- Oversees implementation of the Library Policy (and Mandate).
- Ensures alignment with policy, mission, and curriculum.
- Reviews library reports and approves major collection decisions.

### 4.3 **Principal**

- Delegated operational responsibility for the library.
- Ensures materials align with policy and mission
- Supervises library staff and volunteers.

### 4.4 **Library Staff and Committee**

- Select, catalogue, and maintain materials under the Education Committee's direction?
- Ensures materials align with policy.
- Support teachers and students in accessing resources.
- Maintain accurate records and inventories.



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- Organize fundraising for the library.
- Submit an annual report to the Education Committee containing a comprehensive list of all additions and removals and a financial report.

## 4.5 Parents

- Maintain responsibility for monitoring their children's reading choices based on maturity, literacy levels, and discernment abilities.
- Communicate concerns respectfully through established channel

## 5. Selection of Materials

### 5.1 General Criteria

Materials must:

- Reinforce the school's Reformed Christian worldview
- be age-appropriate
- demonstrate literary, educational, or informational value
- encourage exploration, imagination, and growth
- include a broad range of genres

### 5.2 Non-Fiction Criteria

Materials should:

- support the curriculum
- be accurate and current
- avoid promoting ideologies contrary to a Reformed worldview

### 5.3 Fiction Criteria

Fiction should:

- deepen understanding of human experience
- cultivate empathy, imagination, and moral reflection
- present brokenness realistically but not glamorize sin
- avoid explicit sexual content, gender ideology, or materials that undermine biblical anthropology

### 5.4 Excluded Materials

The library will not include:

- materials promoting gender identity ideology or undermining the biblical definition of male and female
- materials normalizing sexual activity outside biblical marriage
- Material normalizing the gratuitous breaking of any of the Ten Commandments
- materials containing graphic or gratuitous violence or lewdness
- materials that promote a life contrary to a Reformed worldview



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## 6. Challenges to Materials

If a parent or staff member objects to a library item:

- a) Discuss concerns with a teacher or principal.
- b) If unresolved, submit a written Request for Reconsideration using the appropriate form.
- c) The principal or vice principal, one teacher, and at least 2 members of the library committee review the item using selection criteria.
- d) A recommendation is made to the Education Committee for a decision.
- e) Appeals regarding the Education Committee's decision may be made to the Board.
- f) The Board's decision is final.

The item remains in circulation until the process is complete.

## 7. Collection Management

- Materials are catalogued using a modern library system.
- Annual inventory ensures accuracy and stewardship.
- Worn or broken books, outdated nonfiction, or inappropriate materials are removed.
- Volunteers assist with circulation and shelving under staff supervision.

## 8. Classroom Library Collections

- Teachers are responsible for selecting materials for their classroom libraries in alignment with the Library Policy. Parents of students in their class may view the materials available in the classroom.

## 9. Review Cycle

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if:

- provincial regulations change
- curriculum changes require adjustments
- cultural pressures necessitate clarification
- the Board or Education Committee requests review

## 10. References

- CCS Mission and Vision
- Reformed Confessions
- Education Act (Alberta)
- Alberta Human Rights Act