

## **For Our Mothers**

### *Tone and content guidelines*

Safeguarding our students and maintaining trust with our audience and community is of vital importance to Mulberry Schools Trust and Mulberry Schools Foundation. Our values include tolerance, empathy, and respect for diversity. Our creative output needs directly or indirectly to embody these values.

All texts should be suitable for audiences aged 11 years and over and should be set within a positive moral framework, offering reassuring counterbalances to any violence, threat or horror.

### **Discrimination**

No discriminatory language or behaviour unless clearly disapproved of (in the story/writing).

### **Drugs**

References to illegal drugs or drug misuse must carry a suitable anti-drug message.

### **Horror**

Scary scenes should be mild, brief and should not be prolonged or intense. They should be unlikely to cause undue anxiety to young people. The outcome should be reassuring. Moderate physical and psychological threat **may** be permitted, provided disturbing sequences are not frequent or sustained.

### **Imitable behaviour**

No potentially dangerous behaviour which young people are likely to copy. No emphasis on realistic or easily accessible weapons. Dangerous behaviour (for example, hanging, suicide and self-harming) should not dwell on detail which could be copied, or appear pain or harm free. Easily accessible weapons should not be glamorised.

### **Language**

Use of all bad language is prohibited. (This includes even 'mild' bad language and street slang for bad language).

### **Sex**

Sexual behaviour may be referred to as part of the theme. Sex references should not go beyond what is suitable for young teenagers. Crude references are not acceptable. Portrayals of homosexuality should not be likely to encourage homophobic behaviour.

### **Theme**

Mature themes are acceptable, but their treatment must be suitable for young teenagers, and approved by the school.

### **Violence**

Moderate violence is allowed but should not dwell on detail. There should be no emphasis on injuries or blood, but occasional gory moments may be permitted if justified by the context. Sexual violence may only be implied or briefly and discreetly indicated, and must have a strong contextual justification.

### **Portrayal of Community / Parents / Faiths**

All work must be sensitive towards portrayal of every school's local community.