

St John's Lutheran School Kingaroy

Library and Children's Literature Statement (Reference to Fantasy and Magic)

The word 'occult' in its Latin origin means 'hidden' or 'mysterious'. In this sense the word can be applied to the entire world of the supernatural, including the good elements which the Christian faith embraces: angels, God, heaven. In its popular usage however, 'occult' usually means the evil, satanic supernatural forces which are opposed to God as identified in Scripture in Ephesians 6:12 -

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces in the heavenly realms."

It is in this sense that the term 'occult' is used in this statement.

St John's School clearly distinguishes between what is fantasy and what is occultic in children's literature. It does not accept that all references to witches, other supernatural beings or beings associated with the culture or folklore of other people are automatically occultic in nature or that these are subtle satanic conspiracies designed to introduce the occult to children. The School therefore will not withdraw or ban from the library that treasury of children's literature which it deems not to be occultic in nature.

While the school acknowledges the biblical testimony concerning the existence and power of the occult, it clearly points to faith in Jesus Christ in and through whom we have victory over evil and death.

Material which promotes the occult is not accepted in or promoted by the School. Reference may be made to the occult when it is questioned by children or when it is considered necessary in order to warn against its dangers. Occult practices which include witchcraft, séances, tarot cards and other satanic arts are unambiguously condemned.

A considerable volume of children's literature contains material which includes witches, trolls, fairies, leprechauns, gnomes, Aboriginal dreamtime figures, ancient gods and goddesses, folklore characters, non-existent animals, talking animals and trees and magic. Such literature is regarded as a literary form which is neither attempting to present the occult as realism nor to influence children to accept evil as good. Such material is readily accepted by children as fantasy and can serve as a valuable resource for education. This material is used in our School as a regular part of the literature program.