



WHAT IS COPYRIGHT?

Copyright is a form of intellectual property law that protects **original works** as soon as the creator organises the work in an **evident form of expression**. In copyright law, there are many types of works, including paintings, photographs, illustrations, musical compositions, sound recordings, computer programs, books, poems, blog posts, movies, architectural works, plays, and so much more! All schools are responsible for gaining permission and acknowledging the original creator of any work that they use within a classroom, or publish on the school website or newsletter.

It is recommended that you use images that belong to the school ie have been taken by a school community member for specific use by the school. If you wish to use materials created by others, it is suggested that you use *Creative Commons* licensed material, which is free to access, modify and share.

The **National Copyright Unit** (NCU) is a specialist copyright team responsible for copyright policy and administration for Australian schools. It advises and supports the Copyright Advisory Group (CAG), whose membership includes government schools and most Catholic and Independent schools in Australia.

The NCU website <https://smartcopying.edu.au/about-us/> is a great source of information on copyright in schools and provides a *Frequently Asked Questions* section that addresses most questions schools would have regarding the copying activities schools are allowed to undertake within the schools' licences.

LICENCE AGREEMENTS:

The Victoria Catholic Education Authority (VCEA) has in place educational licence agreements that permit schools to copy/reproduce material for educational purposes within certain limits and guidelines. For each of these agreements, there is a fee payable per student per calendar year. VCEA pays the fees payable under each of the agreements to the relevant collecting agency. The agency then distributes the fees to the various creators of the work. Eg. authors, composers, lyricists, artists, musicians.

The following educational licence agreements are in place for schools:

1. Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) - literacy, dramatic, musical and artistic works
2. Screenrights - television and radio programs
3. AMCOS / APRA / ARIA - one agency collects the fees for these three associations/areas
 - Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners' Society (AMCOS) - printed musical works
 - Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) - public performance and communication of musical works
 - AMCOS / ARIA - musical works and sound recordings (ARIA).

In Victoria, most schools are covered by all the above agreements which enables them to use material, within the limits, that would otherwise be subject to copyright. Schools in all sectors across Australia have access to these agreements – Government, Catholic and Independent.