CHILD PROTECTION: SCHOOL CONTRACTORS

School induction - Contractors working with students

GENERAL AIMS:
A. To maintain a safe and supportive school learning environment and to protect children from abuse
B. To providing guidance to support school personnel to confidently take up their role
C. To assist school personnel to reduce the risk of wrongful accusation
D. To reassure parents that policies and requirements of the school apply to every person who is involved with students in the school, or working under the auspices of the school

Specific Aims:
1. Identify and make public the commitment of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Wollongong to actively uphold its responsibility for the protection of children
   Refer to the school’s Child Protection brochure and relevant policies.

2. Develop an understanding of school processes to deal with child protection matters and a preparedness to work with the authorities - school, Catholic Education Office (CEO), statutory bodies
   Schools (and school personnel) have a role to work collaboratively with child protection agencies (eg NSW Community Services) in order to respond effectively to reports of child abuse / child at risk

3. Ensure that school personnel respond to all suspected cases of child abuse in supportive ways
   General Instruction: Report to the school all child protection concerns or suspicions (including allegations) of any form of child abuse - sexual abuse, sexual misconduct in the school, physical or psychological abuse or ill-treatment, domestic violence or neglect of a child or young person.
   Specifically: All school contractors who, in the course of their involvement at the school, develop a child protection concern about a student –
   - Must report the concern to the person to whom they are directly responsible in the school;
   - Must consult with this person regarding any further action and support.
   - If for any reason the school contractor cannot inform this person, the Principal must be informed. If this also is not possible, they must inform Catholic Education Office, Wollongong.

4. Ensure a person who would be barred is not permitted to work with the school students
   Any school contractor who is or would be a person barred from child-related work, must inform the school /CEO if their proposed contract role may otherwise have some involvement with students.

5. Protect students from the risk of abuse by other students, employees, contractors or volunteers
   A school contractor must uphold the child protection policy of the school/CEO and must not abuse a student - physically, sexually or otherwise. Refer to the Code of Professional Standards

6. Protect school personnel from the risk of unfounded allegations by: establishing boundaries of worker roles; maintaining high professional standards; and building awareness that where there is a tendency towards inappropriate lifestyle, attitudes and behavior, that may increase the risk of accusations
   Develop the Arena of Safety appropriate to the specific role of the school contractor in the school.

7. Act wisely and prudently and respond to concerns sensitively.