



# CHILD PROTECTION: SCHOOL CONTRACTORS

## School induction - Contractors working with students

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### 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.