



Child Protection Guidelines For Post-Primary Schools

September 2007

Introduction

Child Protection issues have been a major concern in recent times for the many bodies which deal with children.

The Department of Education and Science issued Child Protection Guidelines for Post-Primary Schools in 2004. This document outlines the role and function of Boards of Management, Principals and staff in the area of Child Protection.

In-service was organised by the DES for all Principals who act as Designated Liaison Persons. ACCS, with DES support, appointed a Co-ordinator to advise and assist its schools in the implementation of the DES Policy Guidelines. There is an onus on Boards of Managements to ensure that all personnel working in their schools are advised and trained in the issues surrounding child abuse. "Organisations and employers who work with children should be aware that setting out clear norms of behaviour regulating the way in which interaction with children should occur, is in the best interests of both employees and children" (The Ferns Report, page 261, point 9).

Vetting procedures have also been introduced whereby all adults involved with young people (up to 18 years of age) must be vetted by the National Garda Vetting Unit.

ACCS has decided to produce this CD, which contains the relevant documentation and advice necessary to enable Boards of Management and Principals in particular, to discharge their responsibilities to staff, students and parents. The welfare and protection of young people from abuse of any kind are central to the duty of care owed by schools to the student population.

We trust you will find this CD of benefit to your school.

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ACCS Child Protection Officer.

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