

Deanery Meetings January 2014

Name three of the current issues that cause you most concern.

No issue at the moment good principal good board members.

Handbook Please let me know if your Board did not get a set of Handbooks

Independent Assessors - Current list will need to be looked at again

On list of assessors - some have titles i.e. Chairperson/Principal etc.

Recommendation re payment to independent assessors – **Group Discussion**

Taking children in cars c.f. Allianz Guide to Insurance, Safety & Security in Schools Ch 6

OLCS Circular 0024/2013 Data Input Person & 2 Approvers

School Ethos

Concerns that the Catholic Ethos of schools under Catholic Patronage will be undermined especially regarding the teaching of Catholic doctrine and displaying Catholic symbols etc.

The Ethos of the Catholic Primary School – Sr. Eileen Randles Handbook p 49

Ethos (characteristic spirit) of a Catholic School - Irish Bishop's conference Handbook p 47

Catholic Schools Partnership (CSP) A Process for Catholic Prim Schools Fr M Drumm p 33

Key characteristics of our school as a Catholic school - Fr Michael Drumm Handbook p 37

Schedule of a Catholic School – final paragraph in the Deeds of Variation for Catholic Primary Schools Handbook p 61

Funding for Schools

School funding – x17- lack of adequate funds - budgeting

Falling student numbers - decreasing finance

Fundraising - **Fundraising and Parents' Associations c.f. Constitution of Boards & Rules of Procedure 2011 p 29**

Building

Dealing with building projects. Vis-a-vie DES - can be overwhelming - tempting to take shortcuts

How to further advance building projects, amalgamation, new build etc.

Dealing with Revenue, Vat bracket

Relevant Contracts Tax (RCT) c.f. **CPSMA.ie for Guidance Notes**

Role as Chairperson

Roles within an effective and efficient BOM c.f. Handbook P 84

Fulfilling my role properly

Having to feel my way when dealing with issues

Not knowing what is happening in the school until it becomes a problem

Uncertainty over who is ultimately the responsible entity i.e. Board, Patron or Dept. of Ed

Principal has support from union/chairperson less support when trouble comes

Where does chairperson turn to?

The increasing amount of responsibility being thrust on BoM's would benefit from a support network which would keep people up to date as changes unfold

Relationships -

Importance of good, open and honest communication

Positive Staff working relations procedures Handbook 124 –c.f. Good Practice

What's my relationship with the Principal/other Members/Staff etc.?

Link between principal, board and parents

Guidelines for visiting the school liaising with principal

Whether I am simply the pawn of the principal

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Meetings

Volume of work to go through at meetings

Difficulty with members not attending meetings – might **need to ask why?**

– **Rule 7 (d) absent for three consecutive ordinary meetings – position becomes vacant**

Wary of proper procedures re every aspect of board business

Group Discussion

Parents' Association

Role of Parents' Association

Parents' Association information

Parents not sufficiently involved in Parents' Association

Expectations / concerns of parents in some instances e.g. class size x2 / class allocation –

Inclusivity of Parents' Association

Handbook p 148

Group Discussion

Recruitment and Employment issues

Recruitment x3

Appointment/interviews

Interviews where you know the applicants

Contracts/policies/secular instruction

Dealing with Staff re Allocation of staff – decided **by principal after consultation**

SNA Allocation

Handbook p 99

Legal Issues /Policies and procedures

Board of Management and legal issues x3 - obligations/Policies/regulation x2

Bullying x2

Anti-bullying policy – and the legal issues surrounding dealing with indiscipline, bullying etc

c.f. New Circular 45/13 Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools

Enrolment policies x2

Statutory legislation (imperatives) e.g.

Group Discussion

Child welfare/protection issues

Child protection report

If Child abuse allegation is inside what happens next is crucial to all concerned **Handbook p 187**

Handbook p 184

Insurance & Health and safety

Health and safety

Safety officer training

Handbook p 159

Other issues

Amount of Administration being landed on schools by Department of Education - teachers and principals have no time to work extra activities for the benefit of children

Focus is now on **paperwork** been done **rather than outcome for the child**

Complaints made about teachers while very rare do cause extreme concern on how to deal with them

Quality of teaching

Circular 60/09 Revised Procedures in Relation to Professional Competence Issues and General Disciplinary Matters (Principals/Teachers)

1 Procedures relating to professional competence issues

2 Procedures relating to work, conduct and matters other than professional competence

EPV days for teachers – **Circulars 37/97 and 35/09**

Disputes that arise between teachers/sna/parents c.f. **Positive staff etc. referred earlier**

Getting a false statement of accounts **Should not happen and should be challenged**

Conflict of interest –

General BOM Business and Appointments

Time