



17 June 2015

### **A message from the Director of Schools to Parents and Carers**

#### **Volunteers working with Children in Catholic Schools**

##### *A shared Commitment to creating Child Safe Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wollongong*

Volunteers offer a valued support base for our Catholic schools, assisting school staff to provide a range of high-quality opportunities to promote the learning, wellbeing and growth of students. As partners in the education of your child, Schools encourage parents and carers to play an active part in the school life of their children and appreciate that you will consider volunteering when the school asks for assistance.

The protection of children entrusted to our care, is a very serious responsibility. It is important for parents and carers to be aware of some steps that Catholic Education, Diocese of Wollongong schools are taking to help maintain Child Safe Catholic Schools.

In 2013 the NSW government introduced a new *Working with Children Check* (WWCC) scheme which is being phased in over a number of years. The WWCC is free for volunteers.

Under NSW legislation many of our **parent volunteers** (and close relatives as well) in schools are exempt from requiring a *Working with Children Check*. To help ensure a Child Safe school for your children we are taking a range of important steps.

These steps are explained in the guide: <http://bit.ly/Requirements4SchVolunteers>

When parents and carers are being engaged to volunteer they will be asked to either:

- (i) Provide their ***Working with Children Check*** (WWCC) details *if* they already have obtained a WWCC for other work; **or** otherwise
- (ii) Complete a **Declaration**.

The school will assist parent volunteers with this process.

Existing volunteers will be contacted by the school to similarly complete this process in due course.

Catholic Education, Diocese of Wollongong appreciates your support in maintaining Child Safe Catholic Schools. Should you have any questions or require any further information please contact the School, or Catholic Education, Diocese of Wollongong on (02) 4253 0800 or by email to [workingwithchildren@dow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:workingwithchildren@dow.catholic.edu.au)

Thank you for your ongoing support and active involvement as we work together to create vibrant Catholic schools that support every student to grow in faith and improve in learning.

Yours sincerely

Peter Turner  
Director of Schools  
Diocese of Wollongong