Questions to the Principal

Schools and school staff owe a duty of care to their students which cannot be abrogated simply because the school is complying with pandemic measures dictated by the Government. If your child's School Principal cannot provide satisfactory answers to the questions below, they may be disregarding their duty of care.

Mask wearing in children

1. Can you conclusively demonstrate that masks are safe and effective?
2. Are you aware of the potential risks of masking children, both physical and psychological? How are those risks being mitigated in practical terms at your school?
3. Do you have a management plan for implementing and monitoring the correct use of masks as per WHO recommendations?
Are you aware of the circumstances in which a child may have a legitimate mask exemption? For example asthma, trauma, anxiety, etc?
4. Have you implemented policies and staff training to ensure that children with mask exemptions are not bullied, discriminated against or asked about their private medical circumstances?
5. Are students being educated on correct/safe mask usage and made to feel comfortable about those not wearing masks and letting staff know if they are struggling with wearing a mask?
6. Can you ensure all staff are trained to identify the signs of ill effects or distress from mask-wearing?

Vaccinating Children

If Covid19 vaccinations are to be administered to pupils in your school:
1. Are you aware that the World Health Organisation doesn't recommend children under 12 years old to get the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine?
2. Are you aware Covid19 vaccinations for children are experimental, still in clinical trials and have only been provisionally approved by the TGA?
3. Are you aware that there are legal and ethical requirements for recruiting participants for human research trials?
4. Given that informed consent is required for administering vaccinations how do you intend to manage the process of obtaining appropriate legal consent?
5. Schools have explicit policies in relation to topics which teachers are authorised to discuss with students. Are you applying these policies to ensure that staff do not raise discussions around private medical information of any nature? (e.g. vaccinations, exemptions, consent etc).
6. How will you ensure that policies around bullying and inclusion are followed as intended in relation to vaccination status and that staff do not attempt to influence, frighten or pressure students?
7. Have you and your staff received appropriate training in order to effectively identify adverse reaction symptoms, and provide timely and appropriate response to children in your care, post Covid19 vaccination?

Lockdowns, school closures and segregation

1. What policies is the School implementing to minimise the impact of lockdowns and school closures on its pupils?
2. Are you aware of the studies showing that lockdowns and school closures are of limited benefit? Do you support the continued use of these measures?
3. There are studies which are showing that children are already behind in mental and psychosocial development due to the lockdowns and other segregations measures endured to date. What measures are you putting into place to advocate for the best educational, social and mental wellbeing of your students?

Legal Obligations

1. Do you understand the application of the Pandemic Orders and have resources/systems for keeping up to date with and verifying the ever-changing requirements?
2. Are you equipped to explain the directives you are enforcing and their basis to parents and carers?
3. Are you aware that not all of the Department of Education and Training (DET) guidelines have been backed by lawful directions / Pandemic Orders in the past? Are you relying completely on the DET for guidance or are you undertaking your own due diligence as to the legal requirements?
4. How is the School ensuring compliance with its duty of care in the face of the novel, constantly changing and often unsubstantiated Pandemic Orders to the extent they impact children in the School's care?