Governance in Schools – A legal Perspective

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Objectives:

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In partnership with Mason Hayes & Curran (MHC), ACCS is hosting a one-day seminar on legal matters that impact on schools. This In-Service will provide school management with an opportunity to discuss employment matters and other topics relevant to schools.

The format of the day will be question and answer sessions, led by MHC’s experienced educational legal team, with audience participation, on a wide range of topics which arise in schools. On the day we will cover questions such as:

* *What does a Principal do when a staff member refuses to attend a meeting with the Principal about a work-related matter?*
* *What are the most common issues that arise at Stage 4 of the disciplinary procedure?*
* *What are a school’s obligations regarding the processing of applications for enrolment from separated parents/guardians?*
* *How should a school deal with a staff member who is engaging with students on social media?*
* *Can an SNA be obliged to travel on school tours and outings?*
* *What does a school do when a parent / guardian complains informally about a teacher but does not wish to pursue their complaint?*

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Content Includes:

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Staff Issues

* Attending meetings
* Disciplinary Procedures for Staff
* Grievance Procedures/Investigations

Family Matters

* Guardianship & Custody and the implications for enrolment, parent-teacher meetings, school reports, exam results etc.
* Child Protection Issues and dealing with TUSLA and the Gardaí

Student Conduct and Codes of Behaviour

* Social Media – common concerns
* Dealing with investigations of student misconduct (searches, substance abuse,

inappropriate use of social media)

* School trips and activities
* Suspension and Expulsion – procedural requirements and avoiding common pitfalls

Students with Special Educational Needs

* Disability and reasonable accommodation
* School trips, tours abroad and issues arising

Dealing with parents – complaints and refusal to attend class in some subjects

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**Chairpersons of Boards of Management and Principals**