

Flowchart of Response for Critical Incident and Emergency Management

Catholic schools have a responsibility to provide a safe and supportive environment for staff, students and members of the community. The wellbeing of students, staff and community members can be adversely affected by crisis events. Appropriate planning and intervention can reduce the likelihood of such events and mitigate the impact should a crisis occur.

An emergency differs from a critical incident in that while a critical incident may involve individual injuries, it is usually an isolated event without wider safety consequences for the school community. A critical incident may, however, cause emotional and psychological distress during and/or after the incident for those directly involved or for the wider school community.

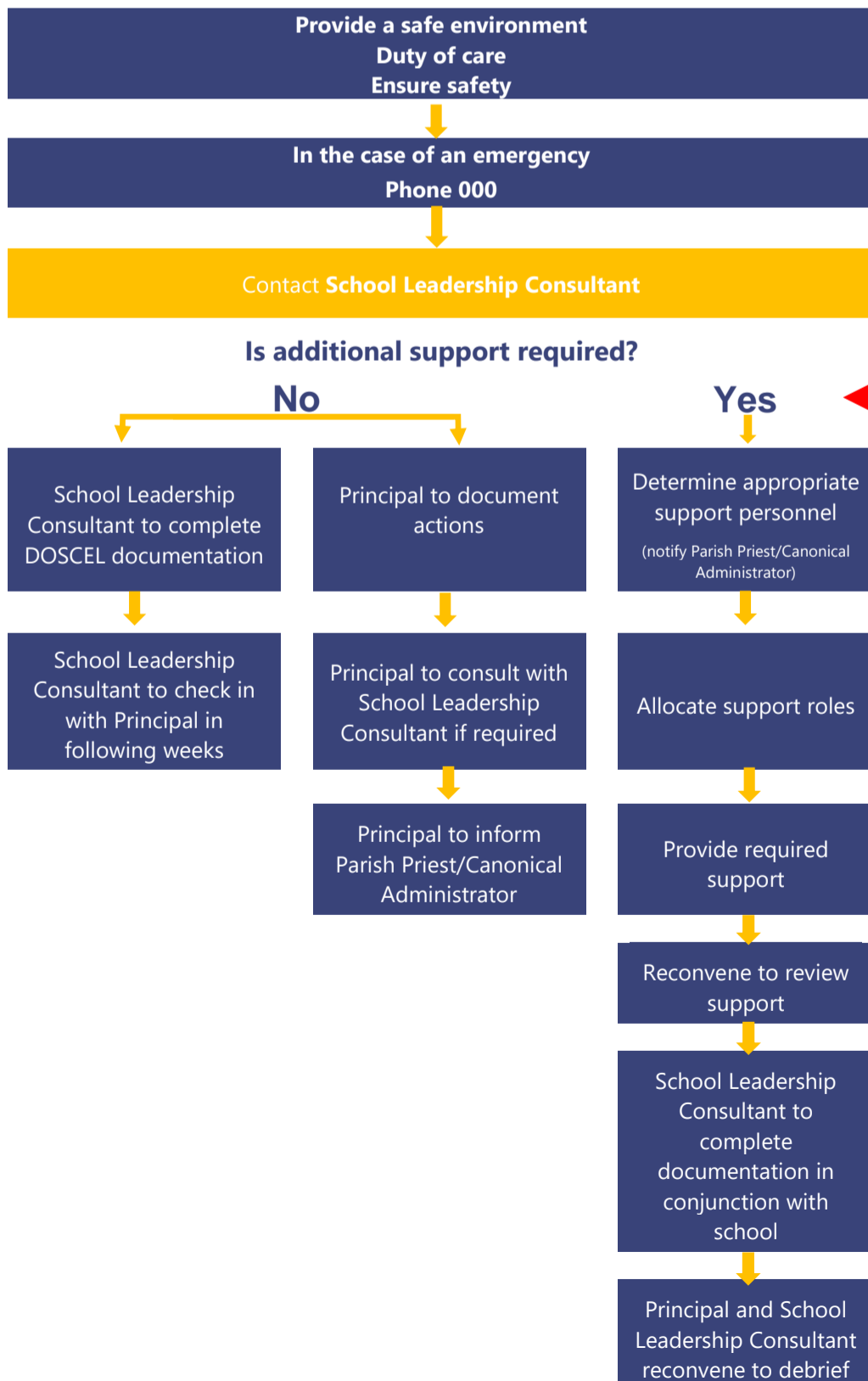
Process for Critical Incident Response

Taken from Critical Incident Management and Response Resource: Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited

A critical incident may be defined as an event which causes disruption to an organisation or significant danger or risk, resulting in a situation where staff, students and parents may feel unsafe, vulnerable and distressed either emotionally or psychologically. Some critical incidents may result from emergencies occurring outside the school environment such as serious injury to a student whilst holidaying with family. This may affect teachers and students in ways which the school needs to address. A critical incident may not necessarily require an initial emergency response.

Critical incidents that may affect the school community include:

- the death/serious injury of a student, staff member or school community member
- the destruction of the whole, or part, of the school
- the murder of a student, staff member or school community member
- death or misadventure on a school excursion
- students witnessing serious injury or death
- staff member, student, sibling or parent suicide
- flooding or other natural disasters
- terminal illness of a member of the school community
- use of violent weapons in the school
- outsiders coming into school and being aggressive to students and staff
- disappearance of a student or staff member or school community member
- social abuse of students or staff members where safety is compromised
- major vandalism
- media coverage of issues in a way which creates concerns in the school community.



Process for Emergency Management Response

Taken from Catholic Schools Emergency Management Manual
REVISED EDITION (v 1.5) October 2017

Emergency management is the discipline of preventing and dealing with risks. It involves preparing for emergencies before they occur, responding to emergencies when they occur and supporting and rebuilding after an emergency.

Emergency management is a dynamic process that can be described as:

- the process of planning to prevent the impacts of an emergency
- preparing for the broadest ranges of emergencies
- being able to respond safely, quickly and effectively to an emergency
- being prepared and capable of recovering from an emergency.

An emergency is an actual or imminent event that endangers or threatens to endanger life, property and/or the environment and requires an immediate, significant and coordinated response.

Emergency Management Plans need to address a range of emergencies, such as but not limited to:

- bushfires
- internal fires and smoke
- severe storms and internal flooding
- pandemics and communicable diseases
- earthquake
- chemical hazard or gas leak
- violent incidents
- bomb threats
- road accident or any other accident
- acts of terrorism
- a hi-jack, siege or riot
- disruption to an essential service

