

Telephone 762 7300

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE
OF VICTORIA

A. :CL
10th December, 1987.

Wantirna South Group
Suite 2, 173 Boronia Road,
Boronia 3155

CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. T.M. Doyle,
Director,
Catholic Education Office,
P.O. Box 146,
EAST MELBOURNE. 3002.

*W. H. Baker
K. Adams
14/12/87*

Dear Father Doyle,

Re: Holy Family School, Doveton

A situation has arisen over the past few weeks which is now causing me concern.

In the placement of teachers to class positions for 1988, the Principal appointed a particular teacher to Grade 3. This teacher holds the Principal's trust and confidence in being able to share with the children her faith and in being able to most competently prepare the children for the reception of Sacraments.

Following this appointment (the particular teacher has taught a composite 2/3 this year at Holy Family and there have been no complaints about her work) Father Searson objected to the placement on the basis that she was not a committed Catholic nor was her faith sufficient for such responsibilities.

He would not state his reasons but recently has asked the teacher to attend certain religious activities which on two occasions she was unable to accept because of family commitments. In both cases they were evening or weekend events to which teachers would not normally be placed under pressure to attend.

In both instances he said to her that she ought get priorities right, even in the case of a family birthday and family funeral.

The teacher is aware of these statements and that Father does not want her in Grade 3 in 1988. She is most upset and in a lengthy chat with me expressed concern and anger about the effect of such comments on her reputation and on the nature and demands that Father was making upon her.

She is an excellent teacher, a faithful person and has my confidence as well as the Principals.

I note with concern that this is the third attempt this year to harm a person's reputation (refer previous correspondence). I believe that the teacher has sound cause to be aggrieved and angry at the insinuations that are being made.

At this stage she is determined not to seek another class, or position in another school, and the Principal does not intend to change her to another class for 1988. It will be interesting to see if Father Searson instructs the Principal to do so. In the past he has always short of such action.

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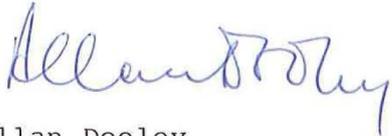
If Father Searson instructs the Principal to change the teacher I think two things will follow. First, the Principal will seek to clarify her role in the school in regard to class placements, and secondly, I believe the teacher will ask myself and the Principal to sit down with her and Father Searson and challenge him as to his reasons for instructing removal from this class.

It is my belief that once again Father Searson has acted inappropriately as an employer with the result of great distress to a competent and faithful teacher.

There seems little point in my taking up this matter with him until such time as he makes a specific direction. I believe that he will now let the matter drop because of the stand the Principal and teacher are taking.

I will keep you informed on any further developments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allan Dooley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Allan Dooley,
Educational Consultant.