

Activities

The following tasks have been developed around the key content covered in the text, *Preparing for the Teaching Profession*, and the additional online articles that are provided. Some of the tasks are suitable for between tutorial study, whilst others are more substantial and could be used as the basis for assignments for more formal assessment purposes.

❖ Fitting in with the team

Given the importance of teamwork and collaboration to a healthy workplace and positive student outcomes, explore some of the *enhancers and blockers* to a healthy and productive workplace in a school.

Some aspects to consider include:

- Sharing of skills, resources and ideas
- Acknowledging colleagues' successes
- Supporting each other in times of challenge
- Accepting that all students are the responsibility of all staff.

❖ Duty of Care

Carefully read your State or Territory's *Duty of Care Policy*, and closely consider the notion of "negligence" in terms of teachers' responsibility to students in their care.

Look closely at some of the legal judgements where teachers were faced with charges of negligence.

❖ Ethical relationships

From your experience, what are the ethical responsibilities of teachers both within a school setting, and in the community generally?

What might be the implications of a teacher acting unethically both for the teacher, and for the profession? We suggest you read Chapter 10 as a starting point.

❖ Working with parents in difficult situations

Carefully consider the model *The Nature of Parent-teacher Interactions* (Figure 9.4) and read the article from which it is drawn. Consider some experiences you have observed where a teacher has worked with parents under quite difficult circumstances. How effectively does this model help you to identify what occurred or what might have occurred on this occasion? What could you learn from this situation going into the future?

❖ Managing work-life balance

Carefully read Chapters 3 and 10 and develop your own work-life balance plan. This plan should include:

- Keeping a record of scheduled meetings including time to prepare for such meetings, and follow-up that is required
- Effective use of your available planning time