



2nd March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am contacting you today regarding a communication that has been issued by the Jesuit Order regarding the abuse of past pupils in the 1970's in Belvedere College SJ. The matters raised are deeply disturbing. My heart goes out to all those affected.

At the request of a past pupil who was himself sexually and emotionally abused and, in an effort, to reach out to victims and survivors, the Jesuits have named the perpetrator, a Jesuit priest, Fr. Joseph Marmion SJ, who died in 2000. The Jesuits have also been in contact over several years with others who were abused by this man. A full copy of the [statement](#) from the Jesuits is now available on our website.

It is a matter of deep regret to all of us that children were abused while pupils in Belvedere.

I can only reiterate what Fr. Moloney SJ, Provincial, said in his statement *"This pain is held by those who were direct victims of harm and abuse, by their families and also by other students who were witnesses to this abuse and felt powerless and unable to do anything about it. It is a matter of profound regret to me personally and to the Society of Jesus that children were abused whilst in our care. We are truly sorry. Words are never enough."*

The safety and wellbeing of our students is our primary concern. Our Pastoral Care Team and teaching staff are available to each of our current students should they need to talk.

The College has adopted Children First - the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017, without modification, and these are implemented fully. The [College Safeguarding Statement](#) can be found on the College Website.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Gerry Foley, Headmaster**
The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Paul Bryce, Deputy Principal**

Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mr. Gerry Foley'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerry Foley
Headmaster

.....