



Scoping Inquiry Report into Historical Sexual Abuse in Schools run by Religious Orders

Le Chéile Schools Trust Response 18th September 2024

We are deeply shocked and saddened to read the findings of the Report of the Scoping Inquiry into Historical Sexual Abuse in Day and Boarding Schools run by Religious Orders. Our thoughts are with survivors and their families today.

The report is an extremely upsetting document, and survivors have shown extraordinary courage in coming forward to share their experiences.

We unequivocally condemn all forms of sexual abuse. We acknowledge the hurt caused to survivors of sexual abuse and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to all those who have been deeply hurt by such abuse.

Le Chéile Schools Trust, in its role as patron, undertake to ensure that our schools today are safe places for all, and that the highest standards of child safeguarding are in place. Our response to abuse allegations must be grounded in truth, openness, transparency and accountability.

To ensure that the horrific abuses that occurred in the past will never be repeated, all schools now have a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy in place and report annually to their patron confirming that this policy has been reviewed and that a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is available to students and staff to report any incidents of concern. The Department of Education carries out regular Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections (CPSI) in schools and issued updated procedures to all schools in 2023.

In this regard the Report found that the current child protection systems and frameworks in schools are robust.

Le Chéile Schools Trust will continue to co-operate with the Department of Education and any other relevant bodies on any issues arising from the Scoping Inquiry report.