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Edmund Rice Schools Trust

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**4<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

Edmund Rice Schools Trust acknowledges the Report of the Scoping Inquiry into Historical Sexual Abuse in Schools Run by Religious Orders, presented to the Department of Education on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

We unequivocally condemn all forms of sexual abuse that took place in schools. We readily acknowledge the hurt caused to victims of sexual abuse and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to all those who have been deeply hurt by such abuse. The rights and human dignity of all persons, especially children, must be protected and the welfare and safety of each person, especially the child and young adult, must be prioritised.

Edmund Rice Schools Trust wishes to ensure that schools today are safe places for all, and that the highest standards of child safeguarding are in place, along with the ongoing development of a culture of care, openness and transparency. Above all, the 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 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.

Edmund Rice Schools Trust co-operated fully with the Scoping Inquiry over the past year and provided the information required as comprehensively and honestly as possible.

We will continue to cooperate fully with any future inquiries or investigations.