

Response of Fr John Harris, O.P.,
Prior Provincial of the Irish Dominicans,
to the Report of the Scoping Inquiry

As the Provincial of the Dominican Order, I am deeply sorry that children and young people experienced abuse in a school run by us or under our patronage. I acknowledge the courage and bravery of the victims and survivors who have come forward to participate in the Scoping Inquiry and I thank them for doing so. The Order has cooperated fully with the Scoping Inquiry team over the past year.

I encourage anyone who wishes to make a report and/or is in need of support to contact Tusla, Child and Family Agency, and An Garda Síochána. I also invite them to contact the Dominican Safeguarding Office at: safeguardingoffice@dominicans.ie if they would like to do so.

We will continue to provide a broad range of support, including access to counselling and therapeutic services (Towards Healing and Towards Peace), and to pastoral and restorative justice processes, including a meeting with me as Provincial of the Order if and when requested.

Towards Healing: <https://towardshealing.ie>

Towards Peace: <https://towardspeace.ie>

Rigorous child protection structures are in place in order to ensure the safety of every student in all our schools. The Department of Education's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023) are implemented in all schools for which we have responsibility. Child Protection procedures in our schools and religious settings comply with the relevant laws and guidance of the State <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-guidance-and-legislation/>

We report all allegations of sexual abuse to the Gardaí and, when the alleged perpetrator is living, to Tusla, Child and Family Agency.