



DE LA SALLE  
COLLEGE

De La Salle College  
Incorporated in Victoria  
ABN 60 134 337 778

Office of the Principal  
1318 High Street Malvern  
Victoria 3144 Australia

T: + 61 3 9508 2107  
F: + 61 3 9508 2165  
E: [principal@delasalle.vic.edu.au](mailto:principal@delasalle.vic.edu.au)  
[www.delasalle.vic.edu.au](http://www.delasalle.vic.edu.au)

21 April 2016

Dear Members of the De La Salle Community,

I write in response to the ongoing publicity around the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

As a Catholic College, we are committed to being open and transparent with our community about issues relating to child protection matters. We must acknowledge and own the sins of the past, strive to provide for victims whatever healing we may and ensure this never happens again.

As the Royal Commission continues its public hearings, we are writing to inform you that De La Salle College has recently been named in the public domain in relation to a matter of past abuse at Malvern four decades ago. Unfortunately this was not an isolated case. We are aware of a range of complaints against several De La Salle Brothers in relation to sexual and physical abuse from the 1950s – 1970s. These allegations were formally investigated and one former Brother was convicted and sentenced. The Royal Commission's findings may reveal further examples.

It goes without saying that the abuse of any child, irrespective of how long ago it occurred, is criminal and abhorrent and goes against everything we at De La Salle College, Malvern stand for.

De La Salle College fully supports the important work of the Royal Commission and extends our support to those who have suffered abuse at any time in the College's history. The failure to protect our students in the past must be the incentive to assist wherever we can in the healing process for the victims.

On behalf of De La Salle College, I would like to unreservedly apologise today to those who suffered abuse under our care in the past. The pain, shame and humiliation of abuse is a torment nobody should ever be forced to endure and all in our College are united in our condemnation of this stain on our history and regret the anguish suffered by victims.

Further, any person who has suffered past abuse is encouraged to make contact with me on 9508 2107 or the De La Salle Office of Professional Standards on 02 9795 6411, which can provide help and support. In addition, anybody with any evidence of criminal conduct is urged to contact the Victoria Police SANO Task Force – [sanotaskforce@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:sanotaskforce@police.vic.gov.au) or on their toll free number 1800 110 007 where victims/witnesses may provide police with information for the appropriate investigation. Confidentiality is guaranteed for those seeking support or making a report.

The examples of past abuse serve to reiterate to our contemporary community that the safety and wellbeing of all our students is and remains our highest priority at De La Salle College, Malvern. The College has in place stringent policies and procedures that are backed by staff training and mandated government regulation, creating a child friendly, child safe learning environment for every student here. The College wants to reassure our families that our number one priority is the safety and wellbeing of all our students. Our staff, teachers and counsellors are well resourced and trained in the provision of pastoral care for all our boys and their welfare is at the centre of all we do. Our employment practices are in complete accord with all Government, Catholic Education Commission and Victorian Institute of Teaching requirements and all our staff annually participate in professional learning programs relating to Mandatory Reporting and Child Protection Legislation. This includes annual training as required by Department of Education and Training.

The College also has its own detailed Child Protection Policies and Procedures that are available here: [Child Protection Policy](#). All these measures help ensure the ongoing safety of all our students, enabling them to learn and grow in a protected environment.

The College is ready to answer any questions you may have about any of our child safety policies and procedures and I encourage you to make contact with me should you wish to discuss these matters further. De La Salle College will continue to communicate with our school community on these important matters as and when is necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Houlihan  
Principal