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Dear Parents/Guardians

The Board of Governors of St. Colman's College wishes to make the following statement in advance of the College's 200th anniversary.

"St. Colman's College will mark its 200th anniversary in 2023, recognising this significant milestone through events and activities in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years.

Marking this anniversary cannot occur without first acknowledging the abuse inflicted on past pupils by Malachy Finegan (deceased), who was a former teacher and President of the College. This abuse caused unfathomable pain. The consequences of his actions continue to be felt by his victims and survivors, their families, and the wider community. In recognising the 200th anniversary of the College, the Board of Governors firstly remembers those who suffered and are suffering.

While no form of words will ever be adequate, the Board of Governors reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of, and absolute regret and sorrow that such behaviours should ever have occurred in the school.

The Board of Governors draws attention to the Diocesan Redress Scheme which is available for any victims and survivors of child sexual abuse perpetrated by members of the clergy and church representatives acting under the authority of the Diocese of Dromore. Further information about this scheme is available from www.dromoredress.org.

200 years of St. Colman's College will be recognised by the pupils and staff of Violet Hill, its Alumni, along with the wider community in Newry, Down, Armagh and beyond. While we do so, we keep in our thoughts and prayers all those who have been harmed by abuse.

St. Colman, pray for them and for all victims of abuse."

Board of Governors, St. Colman's College, Newry

December 2022