

Our Lady of Mercy College

52 Cape Street Heidelberg VIC 3084
PO Box 293 Heidelberg VIC 3084
T 03 9459 2511 | F 03 9459 0579
www.olmcheidelberg.catholic.edu.au



24 August 2020

Dear parents, carers and all associated now and previously with our school,

On 15 August, the College became aware that former teacher Graham Partington had been convicted and sentenced for child sexual offences from his time as a gymnastics coach. Mr Partington was a teacher at Our Lady of Mercy College in the 1990s. The conviction does not relate to his time as a teacher at OLMC.

The sentencing of Mr Partington sends a strong message that criminal behaviour of this nature is a betrayal of trust that will not be tolerated in our community.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous courage of the victim to come forward and speak the truth about his heinous acts and the damage those actions have inflicted on that person's life.

The College supports all enquiries or concerns brought to it by any person concerning claims of historical abuse and cooperates with the authorities in all matters.

I therefore encourage anyone with information regarding historical child sexual abuse to contact Victoria Police.

Any allegation of harm to a child is profoundly distressing. We are unequivocally committed to child safety and responding to any concerns raised with us. Our Lady of Mercy College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all our students and I ask that you contact me if you have any concerns regarding issues of children's safety or wellbeing related to this time in our history or indeed at any time.

Our Lady of Mercy College has a mission-driven, moral and legal responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment for students and to protect them from all forms of abuse and neglect.

We take this commitment very seriously and work in partnership with the community to ensure that we reduce or remove risks to the personal safety and wellbeing of our students.

Open and transparent communication is essential to the College and community working together effectively. It is in that spirit that I have provided this information to you today.

I will continue to update you on matters of importance to our community and thank you for your partnership in providing a supportive learning environment for all students of Our Lady of Mercy College.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Weir', written in a cursive style.

Judith Weir
Principal