



St. Mary's Primary School

WILLIAMSTOWN

Letter from Principal Anthony Hockey to the school community

2 July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware of the deeply upsetting news recently reported regarding abuse incidents at childcare centres in Melbourne, including here in Williamstown. We recognise how distressing this is, especially for parents of young children, and want to acknowledge the concern, worry and hurt many of you may be feeling.

Although these events do not directly involve our school, we know that they have deeply affected families across our community. We hold all those impacted in our thoughts and prayers. At St Mary 's we are guided by our Catholic values and the example of St. Mary, who embodied compassion and care for others. Now more than ever, it is important that we come together to support and look out for one another.

We ask everyone to please be considerate in the conversations you have, both within and outside the school. We may not always know who has been personally affected, and it is vital to maintain confidentiality and respect for any families who may choose to share sensitive information.

If you have concerns about your child or would like to speak further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Laura, or Michelle. We are here to help and walk alongside you through this challenging time.

Support services are also available to anyone who may need them:

- 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 for 24/7 support for sexual assault and family violence
- Kids Helpline (ages 5–25) on 1800 551 800
- Parentline on 13 22 89
- Sexual Assault Crisis Line (SACL) on 1800 806 292 for support with an immediate crisis.

The Victorian Government have also set up a dedicated advice line for parents who may have had children at the childcare centres. You can call on 1800 791 241 (open 7 days a week, 8 am to 9 pm weekdays and 8 am to 5 pm weekends) for further advice.

As a strong school community, we remain committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and caring environment for every child and family. Please continue to look after yourselves and each other and know that we are here for you.

Take care and God bless,

Anthony Hockey

School Principal

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Williamstown.

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