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19 November 2012

Dear families

Message to families from the Executive Director of Schools on the announcement of a Royal Commission

Our Bishop, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, has made a clear statement regarding the Diocese of Parramatta's response to the recent announcement of a Royal Commission into child abuse. I would like to assure you that our Catholic school communities and the Catholic Education Office will be working cooperatively and fully with the Inquiry.

We are deeply saddened by the incidence of child abuse within the Catholic community and encourage anyone who has information or who has been a victim of abuse to contact the police immediately.

We have strict protocols and procedures in place and will work closely with the NSW Police, the NSW Ombudsman and other authorities to deal with child protection matters quickly and appropriately. The care and wellbeing of our students is our first concern.

I ask you to keep those who have been the victims of abuse and their families in your prayers and the whole Catholic community as we work through this Inquiry.

If you have any questions regarding our child protection protocols please contact your school principal or the Catholic Education Office on 9840 5600.

I thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Catholic education.

Yours sincerely

Gregory B Whitby
Executive Director of Schools
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta