



Proibhínse Phroinsiasach na hÉireann

franciscan province of ireland

provincial office – 4, merchants' quay – dublin 8 – ireland

**STATEMENT OF FR AIDAN MCGRATH, OFM
MINISTER PROVINCIAL OF THE FRANCISCAN PROVINCE OF IRELAND
SEPTEMBER 2024.**

On behalf of the Franciscan Province of Ireland, I wish to express deep sorrow and shame that children were abused in Franciscan College Gormaston, a school run by our Order.

I wish to acknowledge the courage and bravery of the victims and survivors who came forward to participate in the Scoping Inquiry.

Over the past year, we have cooperated fully with the Scoping Inquiry team.

I encourage anyone who has concerns or who suffered abuse in our school to contact An Garda Síochána and/or Tusla, Child and Family Agency, and also to contact the Franciscan Safeguarding Office by emailing: dlp@franciscans.ie if they would like to do so.

We continue to provide a broad range of support including access to counselling and therapeutic services, as follows:

TOWARDS HEALING: <https://towardshealing.ie>

TOWARDS PEACE: <https://towardspeace.ie>

Pastoral and restorative justice processes are also available, including a meeting with me as Minister Provincial if requested.

It is critical to reiterate that rigorous child protection structures are in place in order to ensure the safety of every student in our school.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aidan McGrath OFM". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fr Aidan McGrath, ofm
Minister Provincial

