

9 January 2001

HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL – MARTIN McGUINNESS STATEMENT

Education Minister, Martin McGuinness said: **“I am deeply concerned to hear that young primary school children, who have already suffered so much have been caused further distress this afternoon.**

“We ended last year, hopeful that such incidents were behind us. I am profoundly disappointed at today’s developments and I would urge local political and community representatives to engage in an honest dialogue to prevent further escalation and to resolve this situation.”

Line To Take**Should Holy Cross PS close tomorrow?**

That is a matter for the Board of Governors and I will support them in whatever decision they take. Clearly the overriding priority must be the safety of the children. We must also remember that there is a fundamental human right at stake here and that is the right to education - and to receive that education in a safe and secure environment, free from fear.