

Executive Information Service

Department of Education

3 September 2001

HOLY CROSS GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL, ARDOYNE

STATEMENT FROM EDUCATION MINISTER, MARTIN McGUINNESS MP, MLA

"I am extremely disappointed that the situation in North Belfast has not been resolved in time for the beginning of the school year and am dismayed at the situation in which innocent young children, some on their first day of school, have found themselves today.

"Every child should be able to travel unhindered to school and be educated in an environment where they feel safe and secure and ready to learn. My Department fully supports the ongoing efforts of the Board of Governors, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and the Belfast Education and Library Board to maintain this basic human right for the pupils of Holy Cross Primary School. No child should be fearful of going to school and I would encourage everyone with influence to work towards an immediate resolution of this problem."

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