



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

15 November 2021

Dear St John's Community

It is my sad and deeply distressing duty to inform you that an independent investigation has revealed allegations of sexual assault by a former teacher at St John's College. The teacher was employed by the school in 2002. He taught in the Preparatory School for eight years and served in various other roles during his tenure before resigning in 2014 to take up a position at another school.

St John's became aware of these allegations on 13 October 2021 after one of his victims, now an adult, disclosed the alleged sexual assault to his parents. The school immediately initiated an independent investigation. This subsequent independent investigation by a child protection expert has resulted in other past students coming forward to report alleged sexual assault by this particular teacher during their time at the Prep.

These allegations were reported to the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) unit of the South African Police Services this morning.

St John's has exercised its duty as a school and reported the teacher to the South African Council of Educators (SACE) and the [Anglican Safe Church Unit](#) through the Bishop of Johannesburg. The former teacher's current employer has also been informed. The Council of St John's College and the Bishop of Johannesburg have been fully briefed on the investigation and findings.

Recent media coverage indicates that there appears to be a disturbing increase in cases of sexual misconduct and grooming reported at schools across South Africa. We recognise and respect the courage of these survivors who frequently must overcome a culture of silence and who have bravely spoken out against the teachers who have so heinously abused their trust.

We take our duty of care to our students extremely seriously. We will do everything humanly possible to help rid our schools of the scourge of sexual predators. We trust that the criminal justice system will move swiftly and firmly to investigate all allegations of sexual assault against this particular teacher.

The Council of St John's College is in the process of initiating an independent review of *inter alia* the safeguarding measures in place at the Prep at that time. It is anticipated that this will commence early next year.

At St John's, we commit to continue to review all of our safeguarding policies to prioritise the safety of all students in our care. [The Guardian](#) has been our independent safeguarding partner since 2015. This service strengthened the structures and procedures which were already in place and will continue to advise us on how to refine and implement proactive safeguarding policies and procedures for the safety of all students. The Guardian Anonymous Reporting App, launched at St John's in 2018, empowers and enables our students, staff, and parents to speak out immediately if they have any concerns relating to abuse or other reportable offences.

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ANGLICAN DIOCESAN COLLEGE OF JOHANNESBURG

Headmaster: Stuart West BA (Hons) (Rhodes) PGCE (Unisa)
Visitor: The Rt Revd Dr Steve Moreo MA (UP) PhD (UP)

As an Anglican church school, we ensure that the light, life and love of Christ is embodied in all we do. It is incumbent upon us as a Christian community to uphold these values to ensure the well-being of our children under the protection and love of God. The Anglican Church stands firmly behind the children's Bill of Rights and all other protections that ensure the safety and protection of children in our care. It is incumbent upon us as a Christian community to uphold all values that ensure the well-being of our children under the protection and love of God.

If any member of our community lives with the awful secret of sexual or other abuse experienced at the school, I would encourage you to please report this information to us via safeguard@stjohnscollege.co.za or by using the Guardian Anonymous Reporting App, which is available for download in the [Google Play](#) or [App Store](#). All communication is treated as legally privileged and highly confidential, and professional counselling will be available to anyone who requires this service.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart West', written in a cursive style.

Stuart West
Executive Headmaster



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