



Nendrum
College
COMBER



DARRAGH ROAD, COMBER, CO DOWN, BT23 5BX

Tel. 028 91872361

Principal: Mr A. Walker, B.Ed., M.Ed.

13 May 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am writing in relation to an incident that recently took place involving pupils from the College and the subsequent commentary shared across social media platforms.

While I fully understand that incidents involving young people can cause concern within our community, I must express my disappointment at the manner in which parts of the discussion unfolded online. Following comments reportedly overheard by members of the public, speculation and unfounded claims were shared on social media, leading to widespread commentary from adults within the community including some parents. Much of this information was inaccurate, unverified, and unhelpful.

Most concerning of all was the naming of a pupil believed to have been involved in the incident, alongside derogatory comments directed toward that child. Regardless of the circumstances surrounding any incident, no child should ever be identified publicly or spoken about in such a manner online. It is deeply troubling that, within discussions criticising the school's safeguarding responsibilities, some adults engaged in behaviour that itself failed to safeguard the wellbeing and dignity of children.

As Principal, my responsibility is to safeguard every pupil in our care. This applies equally to all children, regardless of the nature of their actions or involvement in any incident. Where wrongdoing occurs, there will always be appropriate consequences in line with school policy. However, children also require support, guidance, and education if we are to help them learn from mistakes and make better choices moving forward.

I also wish to address comments suggesting that staff "stand by and watch" or that the College does not take bullying seriously. Such remarks are extremely disheartening for staff who work tirelessly every day to support pupils, promote positive behaviour, and ensure children feel safe within our college community. While I will never publicly discuss individual incidents or sanctions, I can assure parents that all matters are dealt with in accordance with our established policies, which are agreed by both Governors and the Education Authority.

It is important to recognise that schools often support children and families in ways that are not visible publicly. Many members of staff go above and beyond to ensure pupils feel safe, supported, and listened to. Unfortunately, these positive actions are rarely shared as readily as criticism or negative commentary.

I would respectfully ask all parents and members of our wider community to consider carefully how concerns are raised in future. Social media is not an appropriate forum for discussing children, sharing rumours, or holding schools to account through speculation and misinformation. Public commentary of this nature can have a significant impact on the emotional wellbeing of young people, families, and staff alike.

If parents ever have concerns regarding incidents within the College, I strongly encourage you to contact the College directly and speak with myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. We have always operated an open-door policy and remain committed to working collaboratively with parents in the best interests of all pupils.

Constructive feedback and open communication are always welcome. Like every parent and carer, all we want is the very best experience, support, and opportunities for every child in our school community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Walker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

A Walker
Principal