



6 December 2021

Dear St Kevin's College Community

For some time, the St Kevin's College Advisory Council has sought to engage with the EREA Board to determine the best arrangements to support the wellbeing, safety and education of all our students.

Following significant feedback from the Advisory Council and the St Kevin's College community, the EREA Board has agreed that the current arrangements between the College and EREA do not provide the visible, timely, responsive or accountable governance necessary to support our College in its journey of cultural and educational renewal.

Addressing the College staff this morning, the EREA Board Chair, Mr Paul Linossier, acknowledged the trauma of the last two years for the St Kevin's College community and has offered an apology, emphasising EREA's renewed commitment to learn from past failings.

Together, we share with our St Kevin's College community significant new support and oversight arrangements for the College.

The EREA Board has established the St Kevin's College Support & Oversight Committee whose members are: the newly appointed President of the EREA Council, Mrs Philomena Billington; the Chair of the EREA Board, Mr Paul Linossier; two members of the St Kevin's College Advisory Council, Ms Natalie MacDonald and Chair, Mr Paul O'Malley; the Principal of St Kevin's College, Mrs Deborah Barker; and the EREA Regional Director, Mr Diarmuid O'Riordan. This Committee is jointly Chaired by Mr Paul Linossier and Mr Paul O'Malley.

The EREA SKC Support and Oversight Committee has the standing of a Committee of the EREA Board, with appropriate delegated authorities to perform its role as the representative of the governing entity, which is EREA. This Committee will work through the College Principal, Mrs Deborah Barker, and will be accountable to the EREA Board for all matters necessary to assist in the effective and timely governance of St Kevin's College.

In addition, the EREA Council will work with the St Kevin's College Advisory Council to determine the most appropriate and enduring future governance structures for the College in the best interests of its students, staff and community, whilst at all times embracing the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Principal, Mrs Deborah Barker has welcomed this engagement and restructure with its focus on ensuring all College decisions are made with the primary consideration of the safety and wellbeing of our students within an appropriate educational context, accompanied by our highly committed and professional staff. Mrs Barker emphasised that this will nurture a growing culture of respect and empowerment for our students in their learning and development. She has restated her belief in the resilience of the College to "reset, reclaim and reimagine" its bright future.

In response to this significant initiative, SKC Advisory Council Chair, Mr Paul O'Malley welcomed the establishment of the Committee "as a constructive platform that engages the EREA Council and EREA Board, working together with the College, to ensure we can deliver the best outcomes for our school community."

Yours Sincerely

**Mrs Deborah M Barker
SKC Principal**

**Mr Paul O'Malley
Chair, SKC Advisory Council**

**Mr Paul Linossier
Chair, EREA Board**