

07 December 2021

Redress Scotland

Dear Deputy First Minister,

We are writing to you to confirm Save the Children's participation in Redress Scotland.

Save the Children is committed to playing our part in the collective national effort to address historic child abuse. Survivors want, and deserve, to be listened to, heard, and believed and be treated with dignity and compassion. We recognise the importance of this scheme to survivors and acknowledge the strength and courage of all those who have come forward, campaigned for, and shaped the redress scheme.

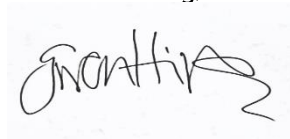
Save the Children offers our sincere, unreserved and heartfelt apologies to anyone who suffered harm and abuse as children while in our care. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, to keep them safe and take action in relation to any incidents of abuse. There is no time limit on our accountability to children. Any and all claims of abuse are distressing. Nothing can undo those wrongs but we hope by signing up to the redress scheme and working with the Scottish Government, we can encourage survivors of abuse to come forward and access redress.

Between 1958 and 1995 Save the Children managed Harmeny School, providing specialist services to children with complex social, emotional and behavioural needs. Following a review in the early 1990s, it was agreed Harmeny would become an independent charitable body. The school was transferred to the Harmeny Education Trust in 1995, which remains responsible for the School today. Save the Children has not provided residential care services in Scotland since 1995.

In our work with families today, the safety of children is paramount in all we do and this is reflected in our safeguarding policies and practice. We are committed to ensuring we strive to protect the children and families we work with to the highest possible standards. And we will continue to learn lessons from our past. We are fully committed to working with you and others to support children to reach their potential and to ensure this is done as safely as possible.

Thank you to you and your officials for all your work in establishing the scheme and your support in our participation.

Yours faithfully,



Gwen Hines
Chief Executive



Claire Telfer
Head of Scotland