



HILLCREST SCHOOL

13 Old Bukuru Road, P.O. Box 652, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria

MOBILE: +234-803 719 0351

www.hillcrestschool.net

hillcrest@hillcrestschool.net

April 15, 2021

Dear Hillcrest Alumni Executive Committee and Hillcrest Alumni,

It is with deep sadness that we share a report of student abuse. Yesterday, Mr. James McDowell, former Hillcrest teacher and administrator posted the following on the Hillcrest Baby! Facebook page:

“I spent 10 years teaching and in administration at Hillcrest. I have many memories of good people and experiences. I have also carried a most painful memory. With deep sorrow and shame, I acknowledge that I am guilty of molesting two students towards the end of my time there. Today I have reached out to them to express my apology, seek forgiveness and offer restitution. To the entire community I apologize with a broken heart for this breach of trust which these days is considered criminal. This led me to step down from HC in 1984.”

We are working with the Child Safety Protection Network (an international organization, of which Hillcrest is a member, dedicated to the safeguarding of students), members of the Board of Governors, Mr. McDowell’s mission and current Hillcrest Administration to address Mr. McDowell’s abuse. It is *very important* that we respond in support of these students and their families, and potentially, others who suffered abuse at Hillcrest. Hillcrest adopted and has rigorously implemented our Student Protection Policy and set of protocols from January 2015. This policy was designed to safeguard all students from potential harm.

Hillcrest is determined to actively protect all within our community from any abuse. We are committed to act with transparency and accountability. Abuse hides itself in secrets.

Thank you for your prayers. If you have questions or comments please feel free to direct them to me.

With a heavy heart,

Anne Lucasse, Superintendent

hillcrest@hillcrestschool.net

0703 598 2766

Dr. John Brown, Chairman
Hillcrest Board of Governors

cc: Hillcrest Board of Governors

Our school is accredited with:



MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES and SCHOOLS
Commission on Secondary Schools



A C C R E D I T E D