

same class but they haven't spoken since leaving the school. He also knows [RC-A11]
[RC-A11]

49. **Counts 14 and 15 [15 &16].** [RC-A600] (date of birth [DPA]1968) attended the Middle School at St Benedict's between 1979 and 1981 (11 to 13). He contacted the police and was interviewed on the 11th July 2010. In short, he described the defendant Father Soper as a teacher and priest that was Headmaster of the Middle School whilst he was there. The school was a very strict one. He described how he was aged about 11 when he was regularly sent to the defendant's office at the top of the school building to be punished over matters that seemed insignificant. The first time he was caned by this defendant he recalled that he was told to pull down his trousers and underpants and expose his backside to show there was no padding or protection. Even though it was clear he was naked in this area the defendant placed his hand on and felt around his backside. [RC-A600] then pulled his trousers up and he was told to bend over the desk, the flap of his blazer was lifted and he was caned hard.
50. After this first episode [RC-A600] was allowed to keep his trousers up, but other than that the routine always the same, after the hard beating the defendant changed his demeanour and insisted on rubbing and stroking his buttocks over his clothing in case he had hurt [RC-A600] saying that his behaviour should change and that he didn't enjoy beating him.
51. This became like a ritual and on each occasion he was sent to be punished approximately once a fortnight, the same things happened. He stated that there was no doubt in his mind from the defendant's behaviour that there was a sexual element to the beating, rubbing and massaging of his backside. [RC-A600] described how he knew what the defendant was doing was wrong and how awkward it felt and he wished the touching would stop. He remembers on one occasion showing his sister [Sibling] the welts across his backside but he would never have been able to tell anyone at the time about the sexual element. He came from a devout strict catholic family "these people (priests) were like saints to me". [Sibling] recalls this happening when her brother was aged 12. She recalls [RC-A600] being extremely upset at what was happening to him and telling her he hadn't even done anything wrong. [Sibling] will tell you that she spoke to her father about what she had seen and been told at the time but nothing was done.
52. [RC-A600] explained to police that he was only a boy and felt confused about what Father Soper was doing to him. Initially he thought 'he's not doing what I think he's doing'