

This report deals with allegations of sexual assault by the suspect on 4 boys. The offences cover a period of time from 1980's through to the present day.

The suspect is known as Father David. His full name is Father Maurice O'Kane PEARCE, dob [DPA] 1941. He is a catholic priest and a head teacher at St Benedicts School in Ealing. St Benedicts is an Independent fee-paying boys school associated with Ealing Abbey. All of the victims were and are pupils at this school.

The suspect (at the time of the first victims allegation) was restricted from undertaking any public ministry. This was a result of allegations of sexual abuse being made by another former pupil, [RC-A6] in 2004. This resulted in a civil prosecution that was found in favour of [RC-A6] "Restricted ministry" in the case of Father David means:

Not to act as a priest in public under any circumstance unless a person is in danger of death and there is no other priest available.
No public ministry within the parish settings. He is only allowed to say mass in private or within the monastery if no members of the public are present.
No contact with any children or young persons.
He is allowed to serve as a chaplain to other religious communities as long as it does not bring him into contact with children or young persons.
If he visits families with the community he is not to wear clerical dress.
He was also advised to avoid the school grounds in his best interests.
The above restricted ministry was put out in letter form and it was served on Father David shortly after 19th April 2005.

Victim 1: [RC-A621] dob [DPA] /1990, he is currently a pupil at Ealing Abbey. On 15th January 2008 [RC-A621] informed the Deputy Head Master at Ealing Abbey that he had been subjected to inappropriate sexual behaviour by Father David. As a result of this disclosure child protection procedures were put in place and on [DPA] [RC-A621] was ABE interviewed.

In interview [RC-A621] states that he is currently a pupil at St Benedicts and believes he wants to [DPA] [RC-A621] so has close ties to Ealing Abbey. In 2006 he started working in the [DPA] of the monastery to earn pocket money. [RC-A621] has a good relationship with most of the priests in the monastery. Sometime around Christmas 2006 Father David struck up a relationship with [RC-A621] and invited him in to chat about his life and problems. Father David then gave [RC-A621] his e-mail and personal mobile number so that they could continue to have conversations. Shortly after their relationship started Father David started to hug him tightly after their one to one meetings and then on some occasions moved his hand up and down and back and on several occasions cupped his bottom, he also would touch his bottom when showing him out of the room. Then Father David started to kiss him when they met and left the meetings, he tried to kiss [RC-A621] on the lips but was rebuked by [RC-A621]. On other occasions during their conversations he would touch [RC-A621]'s upper thigh and hold his hand. [RC-A621] was not comfortable with the touching but was unable to say anything to stop it. Father David said that [RC-A621] needed to diet and he suggested that [RC-A621] take a picture of himself nude as before and after photographs. [RC-A621] declined but Father David kept insisting and pushing for him to take the photograph. [RC-A621] was reluctant to do it but eventually took a photograph of himself naked from the waist up and e-mailed it to Father David. Father David also took him out to Syon Park for talks, during this time he continued to touch his knee and hand, on one occasion in the car he put his hands on his lower half of his body, Father David would also make comments about other pupils and how good looking they were.

In 2007 [RC-A821] went to a retreat run by other priests in [DPA] Father David stated that he was going there on holidays as well and made arrangements to see [RC-A821] in [DPA] where he took him out for lunch and dinner but asked him not to tell the other priests that they were meeting up.

[RC-A821] also asked Father David to hear his confessions but Father David did not do these confessions in the church, instead they took place in the parlour. During confession he again would hold [RC-A821]'s hand and touch his knee and leg. During one of these sessions Father David pulled him into his body so that his groin area touched [RC-A821] [RC-A821] states he felt very uncomfortable about this.

Father David told [RC-A821] to destroy all their e-mails and texts between them as their conversations were confessional.

Father David also took [RC-A821] to the theatre and dinner and gave him presents of a CD and a book.

[RC-A821] has made the disclosure for two reasons, he was concerned about the inappropriate behaviour of Father David and didn't know how to stop it, also he was concerned that the confessions he was making to Father David were not correct.

Victim 2: [RC-A597] Job [DPA] /1977, [RC-A597] was a pupil at St Benedicts between 1986 and 1991.

[RC-A997] started St Benedicts half way through the Junior year. He states that Father David viewed him differently from the other boys and let him know that he was special. At this stage Father David was the Head Teacher of the Junior school. [RC-A997] describes Father David as being infatuated by him. He made him [DPA] between 1987 – 1988. Part of his duties as [DPA] was to have weekly meetings with Father David in his room over tea and tea cakes.

When [RC-A597] moved to the Middle school, Father David was very upset at the move as he would not see him as much so arranged for [RC-A997] to come to his office once a week so they could continue their weekly chats. Father David would correspond by letter with [RC-A597] and [RC-A597] was expected to write back several times a week.

During their conversations Father David would have chats about [RC-A597]'s body and how it was changing due to puberty, it was at this stage that he started to kiss [RC-A997].

On a school trip to [DPA] made [RC-A597] visit him in the bath and sit and chat with him whilst he had a bath.

In summer of 1988 went on an adventure holiday with Father David and [DPA] Child (another pupil at the school). On this trip, Father David would wake him up and make him go into the bathroom and sit and talk with him whilst he had a bath. He called it "special meetings".

Father David was a regular visitor to [RC-A597] home and struck up a friendship with [RC-A597] parents. On one occasion during a visit Father David went up to the bathroom and video taped [RC-A597] in the bath. He gave [RC-A597] a video tape and encouraged [RC-A597] to video tape himself and his friends playing and would ask him to talk to the video camera at night in his room explaining his feelings and his thoughts.

During their meetings on Fridays Father David and [RC-A597] would watch the video tapes that he made or he would interview [RC-A597] on video tape.

When [RC-A597] was 11 – 12 years old he started to take him out to dinner at the Harvester restaurant in Langley and to the theatre. He asked [RC-A597] to refer to him as just David when they met in private.

In Feb 1989 [RC-A597] father discovered a letter from Father David to [RC-A597] in which he referred to a reference to the video tape and seeing "all of you". Father David said at