

CONFIDENTIAL

Dom David Pearce (DPA 1941)

1. Date Ordained: 28th June 1965

2. History of Priest's Ministry:

Taught at St Benedict's School 1975 -1982
Headmaster at St Benedict's Junior School 1983-1992
Bursar 1993-1999
Novice Master 1999-2004

Complaints and Allegations

(a) RC-A595 (DPA 81)

In June 1992 Fr Pearce referred this boy to Ealing Social services as he had disclosed Sensitive. While this was being investigated the family alleged that Fr Pearce had sexually abused RC-A595. This involved Fr Pearce rubbing his buttocks and placing a finger in his rectum. He was then told to keep it secret. Fr Pearce said that he was giving a lesson on child abuse and noticed that RC-A595 was distressed by the content. The boy disclosed that his father had abused him. Fr P took him to his study and asked RC-A595 if he wanted to show him his injuries. RC-A595 agreed to this and dropped his trousers. Nothing was observed. Fr P asserted that his intention was always to comfort a distressed child.

This allegation against Fr Pearce was investigated by the Police and Social Services during which time Fr Pearce was suspended from his post in the school. The matter was referred to the CPS and did not proceed.

Abbot Laurence Soper spoke about the school's deliberations on suspending Fr Pearce in view of the allegations made and said that the factors taken into account were

" There was no risk to children; need for justice for all parties; no record against Fr Pearce; [REDACTED] lay governor advice. The timing – no record against Fr Pearce before, yet the day after he (Fr Pearce) referred RC-A595 case to the Social Services, he (Fr Pearce) is accused. Each case is different."

(b) RC-A596 (DPA 64)

Abney Garsden McDonald, Solicitors, Cheshire wrote on behalf of this former pupil of the school on 29th March 2010 alleging sexual and physical abuse by Fr Pearce RC-A47 and John Maestri in the school and Abbey in or around 1973 and 1979.