

### History of Sexualised Behaviour

Since Knowl View was opened in 1971 several incidents have been logged involving sexual behaviour with the boys. For example, as long ago as 16th March 1981 an incident is recorded involving behaviour rather more than experimentation between boys. There is simply a report of the incident in the log with no further reporting of what happened about that. This is not an isolated report.

In 1987 and 1988 there are reports of the boys meeting in a copse on the school grounds with Rodney Hilton - a man who lives opposite to the school and who has convictions for child sexual assaults.

In 1988 there are reports of Dr. Frazer, Child Psychiatrist, expressing concern about sexual behaviour involving boys attending the school.

It also appears from the log book that there has, at times, been quite an aggressive regime within the school. There appears to have been a chain of coercion and aggressive behaviour from staff to the older boys to the younger boys.

In order to set the sexualised behaviour into a context it is helpful to look at the history of the leadership of the school. Since the opening of the school there have been two headmasters excluding the present one, Mr. Turner Cayman, and then Mr. Terry Hopwood who had been the head of the school for a period of approximately 10 years when, in 1988, he applied for retirement. I understand that he was on sick leave for approximately 18 months before he retired some time in 1989. Since that time there have been acting heads of school, viz. Mr. Cooper who also became ill, Mr. Ian Ashton who had been the deputy but was not actually appointed acting head; then Brett Andrews was appointed acting head for 18 months. Mr. Poulton was then appointed acting head until Mr. Bradshaw was appointed substantive head in April 1991. Inbetween times I understand that there were appointed acting up deputies for a while.

All of these changes have inevitably had an effect on the organisation and morale within the school.

In all 14 boys, some being residential, some day boys at Knowl View School, have been involved in known incidents of sexualised behaviour either between themselves or with other adults. This sexualised behaviour has occurred in various places, in school, within the school grounds outside, at Smith Street toilets in Rochdale and at a flat in the Rusholme area of Manchester. The behaviour has included such acts as buggery, mutual masturbation and oral sex. On occasion boys have participated in these acts for money. A list of specific allegations and known acts of sexual indecency are appended to this report.

Since the investigation into the incident involving the intruder in September 1990 three boys have left the school, one of which having been specifically excluded for other reasons. One has been removed by his mother because he was very frightened about attending school, and a further one has refused to attend school. One of the ringleaders, [RO-A14] has been moved to Egerton Unit, and the most recent reports of his behaviour suggest that he has settled well, is no longer - so far as can be ascertained - involved in any overt sexual activity either in school or out of school, he appears to be making very good progress and is due to leave the school in May.