

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FYE

Support person present: No

1. My name is ^{FYE} and I was born in Edinburgh on 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before attending Edinburgh Academy

2. My childhood was all good, I have no bad memories of growing up. My parents are still alive and still together.
3. From the age of five till I was nine we lived in Morningside in Edinburgh. We then moved to Musselburgh which is where my home was until I was about twenty. In between times I went to university in St Andrews.
4. I attended nursery school in England then went to St Peters Primary School in Morningside. My parents decided they wanted the best education for me. They worked very hard to put me through school.
5. At the age of nine I went to Edinburgh Academy and that's where I remained for the rest of my schooling. This was an all-boys school. The junior school was in the Arboretum area and the senior school was in Stockbridge, Edinburgh. I spent one year at the junior school.

Attending Edinburgh Academy Junior School

First day

6. I don't remember any particular process of integration at the school but there must have been something like being shown around and being told where things were. I don't actually remember my first day there. I do remember specific events though. I remember a specific teacher and this would have been in my form classroom.
7. I had one form master called Mr Wares who I particularly remember. He taught Latin, Geography and Maths in our form class. We didn't stay in that one classroom, we would go off to a different classroom where other teachers would teach different subjects.
8. I was a day pupil but there were other pupils who attended my classes who were boarders at the school. The boarders would have breakfast together communally and I would say that as kids the boarders and the day pupils just got on, there were no issues. I knew that the boarders lived in boarding houses but I never attended the boarding houses.
9. I settled in really well to the school.

Abuse

10. Mr Wares, my form master, was South African. As I have said, as well as being my form master he taught us for Latin, Geography and Maths. Looking back he seemed like an old man to me but he was probably mid to late thirties. There were incidents that I am concerned about involving Mr Wares.

Incidents

11. I don't remember how quickly after I started attending Edinburgh Academy the incidents with Mr Wares began to happen. I don't actually remember the first occasion when something happened. What I do remember though is how it would happen.

There would be a classroom full of kids, he'd be at his desk at the front. I would have been nine years old at this stage. He would get you to stand up at his desk on the pretext of checking your work and he would run his hand up the inside of your trouser leg and fondle your genitals. It was always boys in short trousers. He did this in front of everybody. This went on for the year I was there. It was a frequent, sometimes daily event over the full time I was there.

12. Oddly enough, nobody mentioned it or talked about it. It was just accepted because of this guy's position. He never said anything whilst he was doing it.
13. Uniforms would be worn all year round and they would have been, long blue shorts, grey shirt, tweed jacket in winter, blazer in summer. Thinking back on it I thought maybe this was just a summer event because of the shorts but I remember that the junior school wore shorts all year round.
14. They did issue us with a book of rules and regulations and the dress codes are in there. I've been able to check.
15. When these things were happening to me I don't remember feeling disgusted because it was just accepted. Also I had no comprehension of sexual things at that age. It would have happened to other boys as well. I have a vague recollection of knowing it was happening to other boys but not looking. So I guess I must have felt that it was not right. I definitely felt uncomfortable.
16. I was always guilty of not doing my homework and when you got an answer wrong or Mr Wares thought you should be doing better, he had this other thing that he used to do which was to come up to you, grab your sideburns and gradually lift you up until you were standing on your desk. Then you would be standing on your tiptoes being held up by your sideburns.
17. It was fairly uncomfortable and it added to the feeling of him being in charge. He was in charge of classes that I was in every day. It started off with roll call in the morning then it would be off to the hall to listen to a lecture or something, then it would be back and off to your classes which at least two or three Mr Ware was my teacher.

Leisure and Mr Wares

17. We had sport at school and I played rugby and cricket. On occasions I was particularly uncomfortable after sport because we'd go into the showers. Everyone was naked and we would all hop after sport into a communal shower. I do remember one time being really uncomfortable, getting dressed after a shower. Mr Wares was just walking around watching and looking. I remember thinking that I had to get dressed and out of there quick. He wasn't actually in charge of the sporting activity as there were specific gym teachers. However the other teachers were encouraged to get involved by being referees or umpires or whatever.

Lower School Punishments

19. There were punishments at the Lower School. Punishments included getting whacked on the backside with a wooden spoon which was meant to be a sporting instrument called a clachan. It was like a small paddle. Sometimes a shoe or a gym shoe was used. These punishments could be for trivial things or misdemeanours. There was no belt, there was just the clachan. A couple of teachers had a reputation for really belting you with the clachan.

Upper School Punishments

23. There was one teacher called Mr Dawson who taught History. He used to dole out bizarre punishments. He had various medieval style, long planks. He would hit you with a plank and then you had to sign it. The planks were around three or four feet long. The punishments would be for misdemeanours but it was odd because it was done in a good humoured way most of the time. I can't remember if he whacked you or just tapped you with the plank but I do remember he asked to sign it afterwards. The strike with the plank was over your clothing.
24. Another thing Mr Dawson would do is that he would write on your stomach in biro, 'I have been a naughty boy'. I think he was in his forties or fifties. I think I only had him as a teacher for one year. I think that I got him either first or second year.

25. In the upper school, later on, the prefects were able to dole out the punishments. These punishments were administered over your clothing. The prefects had the collective title of 'Ephors'. which is a Greek word. I eventually became a prefect, but I never doled out any corporal punishments.
26. I don't think that the school had any major issues as far as I was aware of. There was no counselling for anyone who had any issues. Towards the last couple of years at school a couple of teachers actually started to treat you like a grown up.
27. The education was alright. Most of the teachers were very good. I'm not aware of any other incidents. I eventually left Edinburgh Academy in 1971 aged eighteen.

Reporting abuse to the school

20. I don't remember there being any school counsellor or anyone you could take concerns to. If anything the person I would have been expected to go to would have been my form teacher and that was Mr. Wares.
21. I expect there must have been parent/teachers events where my parents would have met Mr Wares but I really don't remember.
22. I definitely did not feel that the abuse was anything that I could have spoken to my parents about. I didn't mention it to anybody.

Reporting Abuse to the police

23. Incidents of abuse all came to light over ten years ago. There was a thing in the paper. I think it was about Loretto School in Musselburgh. As a result of that being in the paper another guy I was at school with, who I was friendly with at the time wrote a comment in a newspaper article about his own experiences. He was a guy called Iain Glen and he's an actor.
24. I think the article about Loretto was in the Scotsman newspaper and Iain said that stuff happened at our school. I thought after the article everything that had happened at the

school was going to come out but I heard nothing. I think at the time Loretto School handled it pretty well. I think they wrote letters to the parents. But still absolutely nothing about our school came out. Then, a couple of years ago there was another guy called [REDACTED] who was about two years younger than me. He went to the paper and said that the same sort of things happened at Edinburgh Academy. That's how I know it happened for a few years at least 1970 to 1972 and possibly 1973.

25. I decided eventually to go to the police. I appreciate that what Mr Wares had done may sound fairly trivial but I kept thinking about how I would feel if it happened to my child. It wasn't easy going to the police back then, it was nine or ten years ago. I think you had to go to a certain division or something but I ended up filling in a form but nothing happened. This was Lothian and Borders Police.
26. I was going to Edinburgh anyway and this time I managed to get in touch with a detective there called Haddock who was looking into allegations. He told me that I was not alone and that a number of people had come forward with similar information. He told me that they would pursue the allegations but it was very difficult to get people extradited from South Africa where I believe Mr Wares now is.

Impact

27. Regarding the events at the lower school I never used to think about it apart from it popping into my head from time to time. However since the article about Edinburgh Academy was first in the paper I started to think that now this is out, let's get this guy and seek justice. It just hasn't happened though, so it has been playing on my mind more frequently knowing that something could have been done.
28. I do understand that these wheels move very slowly. However the reason I decided to go to the police was because this guy whose name is [REDACTED] who was another pupil who joined the school in 1971 came forward in another newspaper and said that he had gone to the police about this. I thought, 'Good on you mate' I'm going to add my name to that as I don't want you to be alone. He didn't actually name a

teacher but he said something like, 'This went on in front of our class', that's when I thought that I knew what he was talking about.

29. I do wish that the police involvement had taken off fifteen years ago but I just want justice. I've never sought counselling or any other support for what happened to me at school because I'm fine and I don't think I need it.
30. I do wish the school had shown a bit more transparency at the time. If they knew about this they should have gathered the boys at assembly and asked if anyone knew anything about it, told them that the school will take the necessary steps to deal with it. I don't know if Mr Wares was found out and sacked or whether his visa was just up and he had to go home to South Africa.

Inspections

31. I've no knowledge of any inspections taking place at the school during my time there.


Lessons for the future

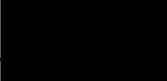
32. I think that there should be a mechanism within each school that would allow an investigation to be carried out. Someone that people can go to. We had a chaplain that I may have talked to because he was a good guy. I would have spoken to him because of that as opposed to him being a chaplain. So I suppose I'm saying that it is important that individual teachers create that trust relationship with the pupils. Ironically the teacher I should naturally have gone to should have been my form teacher and he was the actual abuser.
33. In relation to the behaviour of Mr Wares, despite my thinking at the time that nobody knew about it, I now think that somebody must have been aware of it. There must have been pupils and teachers at the school over a period of years that knew these

things were happening. The culture of the place at the time must have been that they had to keep a lid on it.

Life after Edinburgh Academy

34. After school I went to University. I later moved overseas and have otherwise lived a happy life.
35. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed 

Dated  20/2/19