

Statement by NL 63

I began teaching in Nazareth Lodge Boys' School in September [REDACTED]. I was given responsibility for the senior class (year 6+7). This was a largely composed of boys from Nazareth Lodge but included some from the local area.

In 1968 I was given responsibility for a class with special educational needs.

In 1974 Nazareth Lodge and Nazareth House schools amalgamated to form St Michael's Primary school and I joined the staff of that school.

1

I remember HIA 132 [REDACTED] from his time in Nazareth Lodge, where he was a pleasant and able child. I was not a History teacher and I did not pull him or anyone else by the hair. I am sorry that he felt so unwanted as it was not obvious at the time. He was always treated fairly and I expected him to be successful in life.

2

I remember HIA 225 [REDACTED] as a hardworking child, but have no recollection of the incident as recounted by him. I am glad that he felt encouraged and treated fairly. I do not believe that "six of the best" represented accurately any punishment he may have received.

NL 63
[REDACTED]

Sworn at 85 Andersonstown Road Belfast
this 13th day of April 2015
Before me a Solicitor empowered to
administer Oaths.



PRIVATE

14. Nazareth Lodge primary school was within the lodge grounds. The school had four class rooms and four teachers, Sisters, [SR 34] [SR 47] [SR 156] and lay-teacher [NL 63], all were good teachers. [NL 63] was strict and he would have used a leather strap. [SR 34] was much the same, she had a short fuse. Regretfully we never got any home-work and whether that was a deliberate or a miss sight, most certainly left us at a huge disadvantage. This affectively affected our ability to grasp school curriculum which in effect left us exposed and vulnerable. In later years this aspect would be so crucial when having to seek employment. More often than not we failed just filling in application forms and that was very telling.
15. The backdrop to this, that I don't recall seeing any school inspectors visiting the school, there may have been. However I do remember the late Cardinal William Conway came to visit the Lodge sometime in 1960's but I suspect that was purely a pastoral visit.
16. Saturday [redacted] my last full day in Nazareth Lodge, I told [NL 4] 'thank god we are escaping from you' or something to that effect. She once again beat me by punching with her fist on my back, slapped me on the face and kicked out. She most certainly left her mark on me. I have always had trouble with my back since then. The lodge was mainly happy environment with the exception of [NL 4]
17. Sunday [redacted], was joyful but also a sad occasion. Leaving behind my home after eleven years left me in tears. While I had every reason to be bitter, the nuns for me were my parents whom I had a high regard for and the boys were my brothers. Thirteen boys along with I, were leaving for good and as we all said our goodbyes to the nuns at the front of the lodge porch doors, tears started to flow. We all climb onto the mini-bus which would take us to Rubane Home; it was an end of our time. Despite this sadness I was ever so glad to be getting away from [NL 4]. The other boys felt much the same such was the negative impact she caused.

PRIVATE

They both would have hit us with a stick for not doing as we were told. Sister **SR 34** was a very angry person.

4. I shared a dormitory with about twenty other boys. When we were going to bed at night **NL 5** forced us to line up and show her our underpants to see if they were clean or not and if they weren't clean we were beaten with a stick. We went to bed about 6pm every evening and we could hear the children from the other groups still out playing in the yard. We weren't allowed to go out because **NL 5** would not allow us. Our group were called the "dainties" as **NL 5** always had us washed and cleaned and didn't want us to get dirty. We were forced to lie in bed with the blanket and sheet over our heads. I could never understand why. We were sweating under those blankets and it must affect your breathing over the years. I have always had bad coughs and I suffer from asthma and I wonder whether that is why. If we didn't keep the blanket and sheet over our heads or we made any sound we were hit on the head with a stick by **SR 34** or **NL 5** who were walking around supervising us all. It never seemed right to me. It was cruel and it was scary. I was only about five or six.
5. **SR 34** also taught us at school, which was in the Lodge. When she asked a question in class we would put our hand up to answer it. The first time you put your hand up and answered a question correctly it was OK but if you put your hand up again to answer another question, regardless of whether you got it right or wrong, she would shout you down and tell you to put your hand down and stop showing off. You would be sent to the corner and told to face the wall until the end of the class. Also, if I got sums wrong **SR 34** would smack me on the face and then put me in the corner for the rest of the class. **SR 34** would also have pulled me up by the hair and pulled my cheeks. This happened on more than one occasion. It was so cruel and I felt it was a terrible upbringing.
6. There was another teacher, **NL 63**, who was very fond of the strap. He would hit me with the strap about four times per week. He taught History and English. He would pull you up by the hair if you got anything wrong. I did not

PRIVATE

nice. I remember they bought me a racing set that Christmas to make up for the scalextric set which NL 4 had taken from me.

22. I did alright at school when I was in Nazareth Lodge. There was a teacher called NL 63 who encouraged me. In school they would have used a bamboo cane or a strap but he only canned you or strapped you if you had done something wrong. I remember he wrote a sum on the board once and said he was going to leave the room for ten minutes so we could work out the answer. When he left the room I worked out the answer on my jotter. Before he came back the class were discussing the answer and I realised my answer was different to everyone else's so I rubbed it out and wrote down the same answer as everyone else. When he came back and worked out the sum with us I realised that my first answer was actually the right answer. He asked me to wait behind after class and said he was surprised that I had not got the right answer. He asked me to show him my jotter and he saw that I had got the right answer and had rubbed it out. He gave me six of the best which would have been the normal punishment at that time. I suppose that taught me a lesson about copying.

23. I did the 11+ but no-one properly helped us to prepare for it. All I was given was two encyclopaedias a few days before the exam. I did the exam and then forgot about it. When the results came out NL 4 gathered our group together and said she had something to tell everyone. She said we have a stupid person amongst us and told everyone that I had failed to 11+. She said to me "I was right, you are stupid after all". Calling me stupid hurt me more than any beating she could have given me.

24. When I did not pass the 11+ I knew that I would be going to Rubane. If you passed the 11+ you got to stay at Nazareth Lodge and go to grammar school in Belfast. My brother NL 3 passed the 11+ and stayed in Nazareth Lodge until he was 16.

De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin ()

1 statement and other lay staff. There were particular
2 cruel ways of disciplining us, and one would have been
3 where the side of your lock was pulled, and one would
4 have been a crack ear, if you call it that, pull your
5 ear, but the worst of them was when you got by the
6 cheeks, and if anybody was to squeeze their own cheek
7 and see how hard they could do that, it is very, very,
8 painful, but one of the ways that would have happened
9 was if you squeezed and move your arm up, you kind of go
10 up on to your toes, your tippy-toes, and sometimes then
11 you got a slap across the face. That is something that
12 happened to a number of young people. I hadn't been
13 aware of others being force fed, for example.

14 So I would have been caned in school, for example.
15 I wouldn't have -- others were caned. So it didn't
16 matter a great deal to me. It is the things that stood
17 out in my mind.

18 Q. The type of punishment -- I am going to ask you -- you
19 did give me two names.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I am going to ask you to give those names to the
22 Inquiry.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Again they will not be repeated outside --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Well, the congregation have said they believed her to
2 have been a good employee and they are sorry if she or
3 any member of staff dropped below the acceptable level
4 of behaviour towards children.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. You go on there to say that you learned that the way you
7 could survive all of this was not bring attention to
8 yourself.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Now I am just going to mention a couple of other points
11 and we will discuss them in a little bit more detail.

12 You mention at paragraph 10 about an incident where
13 NL4 took a toy off you. I will come back to talk about
14 that, because the actual circumstances of how you came
15 to get the toy was actually a good memory.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. In paragraph 22 you talk about school, going to school.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You talk about being -- a particular teacher. You say
20 he encouraged you. You say in school he would have used
21 a bamboo cane or a strap, but he only caned you or
22 strapped you if you had done something wrong. You talk
23 about a time when you remember he wrote a sum on the
24 board once and he said he was going to leave it there
25 for ten minutes so you could work out the answer.

1 **I am concerned the matter is dealt with.**

2 Q. That's fine. If we look at paragraph 18, DL40, if we
3 can highlight that, you -- we get on to the subject of
4 school and education, and I want to look at some of the
5 issues that arise from this and our earlier discussion.

6 The first is that you talk in paragraph 18 about
7 NL63. Now he is not -- again his name won't be used
8 outside the chamber. The Inquiry has not yet been able
9 to trace NL63, but what we understand to be the position
10 is he taught in the Nazareth Lodge school for a long
11 period of time, including before you were there, and the
12 Inquiry has heard other evidence about him. You
13 describe him as a strict man but very fair.

14 I was explaining to you that some of the evidence
15 the Inquiry has received would suggest that there was
16 physical punishment that NL63 was involved in, which
17 included using a ruler on the hands, and taking people
18 by the cheek or the sideburns and lifting them up, or
19 perhaps hitting them on the back of the head, a cuff
20 round the ear, and I was asking you whether you were
21 aware that that is the type of punishment he would have
22 engaged in, although perhaps not with you, given what
23 you have said?

24 **A. That's correct. NL63 was a very strict man, yes.**

25 Q. So is it -- you would have been aware of him doing those