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## Teacher committed suicide after 'indecent assault' raid

A TEACHER killed himself following a raid by police investigating an alleged indecent assault at Dr Challoner's Grammar School, an inquest heard.

Neil Bibby, 56, who taught at the Chesham Road school in Amersham for several years, was found hanged by a blue nylon rope in his Brighton home on September 12.

An inquest into Mr Bibby's death, at Brighton Magistrates Court on November 19, revealed he suffered serious bouts of depression and became a recluse after Thames Valley Police child protection officers searched his Guildford Road address on September 11.

Speaking at the inquest Brighton and Hove Coroner Veronica Hamilton-Deeley said: "He told friends he had felt unhappy for several years.

"The allegation was more than Mr Bibby could stand on top of the depression."

Mr Bibby's friend, Paul Mansfield, of Stanford Road, Brighton, explained that Mr Bibby had been worried about the thought of people seeing him as a paedophile.

Mr Mansfield said: "He was very panicked and scared of the unknown and of the humiliation.

"He would not go out of the house. He thought people would have seen the police cars, even though they were unmarked cars and thought he was a paedophile or sex offender.

"I felt he was planning to commit suicide. The search was the last straw."

Ms Hamilton-Deeley recorded a verdict of suicide.

Mark Fenton, the present headteacher at Dr Challoner's, told the Free Press Mr Bibby was a member of staff who moved on from the school several years ago to pursue a career in teacher training.

He added: "The alleged incident happened 15 years ago and child protection has moved on a great deal in that time.

"As I understand it, the incident was never more than an allegation.

10:48am Friday 29th November 2002

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