

Chronology of Care

Matthew Ross | DOB: 7 March 1965 | Focus: placement, legal status, leave, education and social-work review

Principal established placement	St Ninian's School, Falkland, Fife
Placing / supervising authority	Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Department / County of Renfrew social-work records
Primary legal basis	Children's Hearing supervision requirements under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968
Important date issue	Records indicate a formal residential decision on 4 May 1978 and correspondence showing residence by June 1978; one later report says admission occurred in June 1979. The discrepancy is preserved below.

Chronological schedule

Date / period	Care setting / location	Event or concern	Person / body involved	PDF page(s)	Consequence / response	Evidential significance
13 Jun 1974	Family home / education services	Child Guidance Centre records poor school attendance, educational delay and concerns about supervision and home circumstances.	Child Guidance Centre; social work	49-50	Continued educational and social-work involvement.	Pre-care background and educational impact; not institutional abuse evidence.
1 May 1975	Family home / education services	Further child-guidance assessment records continuing educational and behavioural difficulties.	Child Guidance Centre	51	Ongoing professional monitoring.	Shows long-standing need before residential placement.
26 Jan 1978	School before residential placement	Education report records chronic truancy, remedial needs, poor attainment and behavioural concerns.	Education authority / Children's Hearing	47-48	Material prepared for statutory decision-making.	Supports need for intervention and interrupted education.
14 Apr 1978	Assessment Team	Matthew attends assessment appointment; residential options considered.	Assessment Team; social worker Miss S. Barker	35, 95, 99	Professional assessment of whether he should remain at home or be placed away.	Shows who assessed and arranged the proposed placement.
17-27 Apr 1978	Proposed Bosco House placement	Assessment Team recommends residential care if home attendance does not improve; Bosco House declines admission.	Assessment Team; Bosco House	92, 95-96, 99	Alternative placement does not proceed.	Important distinction between proposed and actual placements.
2 May 1978	Referral to St Ninian's School, Falkland	Area social worker asks St Ninian's to consider Matthew for residential placement and arranges interview.	Area social worker; Father Ryan / St Ninian's	94	St Ninian's becomes the active placement option.	Direct evidence of referral and placement arrangement.
4 May 1978	St Ninian's School, Falkland, Fife	Children's Hearing decision records residential supervision at St Ninian's; formal supervision requirement requires residence there.	Children's Hearing; Strathclyde social work	82-83	Matthew is placed under residential supervision at St Ninian's.	Primary proof of placement and legal basis.
May-Jun 1978	St Ninian's School	Later report indicates admission about 15 May 1978; letter dated 6 June 1978 is addressed to Matthew at St Ninian's and asks how he is settling.	Social worker; St Ninian's staff	88, 91	Residence is underway by June 1978.	Direct corroboration of admission/residence.
16-21 Jun 1978	St Ninian's / family home	Social-work notes record contact with St Ninian's, leave planning and home visits.	Social worker; St Ninian's	80	Temporary leave and continuing supervision documented.	Evidence of residential placement with structured leave.

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26 Jun 1978	St Ninian's School	Notes discuss early Friday returns home, concerns about St Ninian's and Matthew feeling his views were misrepresented; also records positive social activity.	Social worker; Matthew; family	77	Concerns discussed but no clear abuse investigation recorded.	Potential emotional/complaint evidence; also contradictory/positive material.
13-20 Jul 1978	Home leave from St Ninian's	Matthew is recorded at home on holiday from St Ninian's; return and family matters discussed.	Social worker; family; St Ninian's	78	Leave period managed through social work and school.	Direct evidence of temporary leave and continuing residence.
4 Sep 1978	St Ninian's School	Letter addressed to Matthew at St Ninian's refers to his holiday at home and settling again at school.	Social worker S. C. Barker	90	Return to residential school after leave.	Direct proof of residence and return from leave.
Nov 1978-Jan 1979	St Ninian's / family home	Supervision notes record home periods, family tension and ongoing social-work contact while Matthew remains linked to St Ninian's.	Social worker; family; school	76	Continuing monitoring and leave arrangements.	Corroborates duration of placement and family contact.
14 Dec 1978	St Ninian's School	Headmaster issues Christmas holiday and transport arrangements, including return times.	Headmaster / St Ninian's	101	Structured Christmas home leave.	Institutional evidence of temporary leave and expected return.
19 Apr 1979	Children's Hearing / St Ninian's	Supervision requirement continued; handwritten record refers to St Ninian's School, Falkland.	Children's Hearing	33	Residential supervision continues.	Direct proof of continuing legal authority.
26 Mar 1979	St Ninian's School	Residential social worker reports literacy difficulties on arrival, later improvement, anxiety, isolation and generally respectful behaviour; recommends continuing supervision.	Residential social worker M. V. Murphy	84-85	Placement continues because supervision is considered beneficial.	Residence, education and psychological-impact evidence; includes positive/contradictory observations.
12 Jun 1979	St Ninian's School	School circular sets out summer-term closure, home-leave dates and returns.	St Ninian's School	70	Residents return home for scheduled periods and are expected back.	Corroborates residential regime and leave pattern.
Jun 1979 - date discrepancy	St Ninian's School	Letter dated 5 Nov 1979 states Matthew was admitted to St Ninian's in June 1979 on a trial basis after a hearing on 19 Apr 1979.	Residential social worker	46	May indicate readmission, renewed trial placement or an inaccurate retrospective date.	Must be reconciled with May/June 1978 records; do not silently choose one version.
28 Aug 1979	Home leave from St Ninian's	Social worker writes to benefits authority confirming Matthew will be home on leave from St Ninian's.	Social worker; DHSS	69	Benefits/allowance arrangements made for leave period.	Direct proof of residence and temporary leave.
1978-1979 school year	St Ninian's School	School calendar lists term, weekend leave and holiday dates for resident boys.	St Ninian's School	89	Provides context for likely periods of absence and return.	Institutional corroboration of residential operation.
13 Dec 1979	St Ninian's / Strathclyde supervision	Children's Hearing varies existing supervision requirement under the Director of Social Work, Strathclyde.	Children's Hearing; Director of Social Work	81, 106	Statutory supervision continues in varied form.	Strong legal-status evidence.
4 Nov 1980	Children's Hearing / community supervision	Decision and formal instrument continue supervision requirement.	Children's Hearing	25-26, 105	Social-work supervision continues.	Direct evidence of continuing statutory oversight after the main residential period.
1980-1981	Family home / community supervision	Supervision notes describe continuing family instability, behavioural problems, alcohol concerns and social-work monitoring.	Social workers; family; community services	53-59, 71-75	Ongoing supervision, referrals and attempts to stabilise education, work and family relationships.	Impact and aftercare-style evidence; not proof of abuse at St Ninian's.
6 Oct 1981	Children's Hearing	Annual review held.	Children's Hearing / Reporter	20	Legal review of current supervision.	Direct legal-process evidence.

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15 Oct 1981	Children's Hearing / social work	Reporter memorandum records that supervision was terminated.	Reporter to Children's Panel	21-22	Formal supervision requirement ends.	Direct evidence of discharge from statutory supervision, though not a school discharge form.
1981 assessment period	West Yonderton I.T. Project	Assessment records unstable home life, lack of stimulation, poor self-image and relationship difficulties.	Quarrier's Homes project staff; social work	41-45, 66-68	Community support and assessment offered.	Post-placement impact and support evidence.

Key chronology conclusions

Established care setting	The strongest records establish residence at St Ninian's School, Falkland, Fife from at least May/June 1978, subject to Children's Hearing residential supervision.
Legal authority	Pages 82-83 provide the clearest original placement decision and requirement. Pages 33 and 81 show later continuation/variation, with pages 25-26 showing supervision continuing in 1980.
Temporary leave	Pages 69-71, 76, 78, 80, 89-91 and 101 document home leave, holidays, expected return dates and social-work management of leave.
End of supervision	Pages 20-22 show an annual review followed by termination of supervision in October 1981. The file does not contain a conventional St Ninian's discharge form.
Date conflict	The June 1979 admission statement on page 46 conflicts with the May 1978 placement decision, June 1978 correspondence and the later report on page 88. It may indicate readmission or a record error and should be explained rather than resolved by assumption.
Abuse evidence	This file does not clearly record physical or sexual abuse by St Ninian's staff or residents. It is stronger as evidence of placement, duration, statutory control, education, emotional impact, leave and aftercare/social-work involvement.

Review note: Some scans are faint, reduced, handwritten or partly redacted. Dates and wording should be checked against the original page image before formal quotation.