**39 Women Convicted of Sex Offences Against Minors in the UK (2010 – 2017)**

Contents

[Caroline Salisbury](#_Toc498110505)

[Catherine Towey](#_Toc498110506)

[Jennifer Staines](#_Toc498110507)

[Scarlett Drury](#_Toc498110508)

[Gemma Standbridge](#_Toc498110509)

[Jennifer and Julie Fellows](#_Toc498110510)

[Angela Gatt](#_Toc498110511)

[Sadie Morris](#_Toc498110512)

[Amanda Tompkins](#_Toc498110513)

[Beverley Tillyer](#_Toc498110514)

[Nicola Fox](#_Toc498110515)

[Jodie Delray](#_Toc498110516)

[Alice McBrearty](#_Toc498110517)

[Susan Janet Ayres](#_Toc498110518)

[Emma Webb](#_Toc498110519)

[Charlotte Parker](#_Toc498110520)

[Eppie Sprung Dawson](#_Toc498110521)

[Bernadette Smith](#_Toc498110522)

[Mary-Ellen Mooney](#_Toc498110523)

[Helen Turnbull](#_Toc498110524)

[Caroline Berriman](#_Toc498110525)

[Kelly Ann-Marie Burgess](#_Toc498110526)

[Karen Ackland](#_Toc498110527)

[Jade Hatt](#_Toc498110528)

[Emma Harfield](#_Toc498110529)

[Ruth Vaughan](#_Toc498110530)

[Yvonne Preston](#_Toc498110531)

[Marie McCarthy](#_Toc498110532)

[Hayley Southwell](#_Toc498110533)

[Charlotte Holl](#_Toc498110534)

[Sandrine Brown](#_Toc498110535)

[Gayle Newland](#_Toc498110536)

[Christine Wilson](#_Toc498110537)

[Loren Morris](#_Toc498110538)

[Caron Lewty](#_Toc498110539)

[Madeleine Martin](#_Toc498110540)

[Anne Lakey](#_Toc498110541)

[Angela Sullivan](#_Toc498110542)

# Caroline Salisbury



Army wife [Caroline Salisbury](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11649520/Corporals-wife-who-seduced-soldiers-son-14-is-jailed.html) had sex with a 14-year-old boy she befriended while she was employed as a school bus monitor. Salisbury, 28, groomed the soldier's son and, despite warnings to stay away from the boy, had sex with him on four occasions over three weeks in 2013. She told the teenager, who had just turned 14, not to tell anyone and, when the relationship came to light, claimed he had raped her and tried to delete messages they had exchanged by social media. Salisbury pleaded guilty to four charges of sexual activity with a child and was given a two year suspended sentence but - after complaints from the boy's family and an MP - the sentence was referred by Attorney General Jeremy Wright as being unduly lenient. Court Martial Appeal Court has had her two year suspended sentence replaced with an immediate term of three years imprisonment.

# Catherine Towey

Female assistant head, [Catherine Towey](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3462372/Assistant-headteacher-banned-teaching-life-sending-flirty-emails-describing-proper-boobs-16-year-old-pupil.html#ixzz4y3tNTIma), 35, was banned from teaching for life after sending dozens of flirty emails describing her 'proper boobs' to a 16-year-old male pupil. She told schoolboy she loved him and that a kiss between them 'would be weirdly natural and just lovely'. The teacher also asked him whether a dress had been 'too little and too low cut', as well as stating 'it's not too ambitious to get a kiss by Christmas', and that 'she might faint' if it ever happened.

Staggeringly, Alan Meyrick, on behalf of Education Secretary Nicky Morgan, said she may apply for the order to be set aside in three years. Eh?

# Jennifer Staines



[Jennifer Staines](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3506395/Woman-23-jailed-posing-man-called-Jason-online-sex-teenage-girls-convincing-one-victim-doesn-t-accept-duped.html#ixzz4y3p7Fibi), 23, posed as a man named Jason online to dupe teenage girls into having sex with her. She accomplished said deed using a rubber penis. When officers visited Staines's home they found the rubber penis, covered in incriminating DNA. Staines was convicted of sexual assaults on three young girls, who were aged between 12 and 17 at the time. Staines admitted the sexual assaults - one on the first victim, two on a second and three on a third, as well as two counts of possessing indecent photos of one of the teenagers. The court warned there may be other, as yet undiscovered, victims. Staines was sentenced to three years and three months in prison.

All Staines’s victims believed they were in a relationship with a male. She was so convincing that one of her three young victims still doesn't fully accept that her 'boyfriend' was in fact a woman. One of those relationships lasted for more than a year. Staines even went on holidays with the young girls, changing in toilets to disguise the fact that she was really a woman. To stop her victims from discovering the truth, Staines would not allow the girls who fell in love with her to touch her body, though she could touch them.

You might think that this story is so bizarre it must be unique. Not at all. Even in this small compilation of ?? case histories there are two other examples of women posing as males in order to have sex with girls using a prosthetic penis – the cases of Christine Wilson and Gayle Newland below. And a few years ago I watched a documentary on TV of another such case. Remarkable, certainly, but seemingly not as rare as you might imagine.

# Scarlett Drury



[Toy Soldiers](https://toysoldier.wordpress.com/2016/06/16/brazen-child-rapist-admits-shell-rape-again-court-lets-her-go-free/) has blogged on this, so I’ll leave the story to him – he does a good job of exposing the sex-based double standards. [Scarlett Drury](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/teenage-girl-walks-free-court-8194975) offended sexual against a boy and two girls. She said, I know it’s wrong and the police are taking me to court. I’m probably going to jail for it. I’ll still do it when I get out.’ She was given a one year sentence – suspended for two years.

# Gemma Standbridge

In August 2016 [Gemma Standbridge](http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/woman-who-sexual-activity-same-11764759), 25, came before the beak again, guilty of sexual activity with an underage girl. She had committed a similar offence with the same girl just weeks earlier when she received a community order and was put on the sex offenders register. Mr Recorder Ben Nolan QC sentenced Stanbridge to eight months imprisonment, suspended for two years, with rehabilitation requirements.

# Jennifer and Julie Fellows



[Jennifer and Julie Fellows](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/paedo-sisters-who-sexually-abused-8666829) sexually abused a boy over many years, starting when the boy was six. The two were 32 and 30 years old when sentenced. The abuse started when Julie lured the 6 year old into a petrol station toilet, where the abuse took place. Julie also had sex with the boy on a sofa several years later when he was aged 14 while her boyfriend asleep in the same property. On another occasion she performed a sex act on the victim who thought the behaviour was "the norm" because it happened so frequently. The abuse only stopped when the victim spoke to friends and realised the behaviour wasn't normal.

The pair were found guilty of multiple instances of indecent assault with a boy aged 6 to 9, gross indecency and sexual activity with a boy aged 13 to 17. The starting point in the sentencing guidelines is 6 years in prison. But the judge went against guidelines and ruled that it wouldn't be fair to jail the pair - because the sisters are deaf. They have never learnt to lip read, and sign language isn’t available in prison, so they would not be able to communicate properly in prison and would effectively mean they were in isolation.

Pregnant Julie, was handed a two-year prison sentenced suspended for two years. Mum-of-one Jennifer, was handed a 12 month jail term, suspended for one year. Both were made subject of a supervision requirement for 12 months. The sisters were also ordered to complete 30 sessions of a sexual offending programme and given of a five-year restraining order to have no contact with the victim.

# Angela Gatt



[Angela Gatt](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3900414/Mother-two-37-naked-boy-14-her.html#ixzz4OxMnvT1L), mother-of-two, 37, escaped jail despite being found naked with a boy of 14 on top of her after saying she was ‘very, very drunk’ at the time. She had been too drunk on Prosecco to remember what happened. The 14 year old was also drunk on alcopops. He ran from the room, feeling sick. Gatt said “what’s you problem” whereupon a witness had to remind her the boy was only 14.

Her defence counsel claimed that “she was very drunk and has no interest in young men”. Well, Mr Defence Counsel, the boy was actually 4 years off being a young man, actually. The judge noted that Gatt appeared not to appreciate the severity of what she had done. He sentenced her to 20 months, but suspended, plus 30 days rehabilitation work, and ordered her to pay £1000 costs. He also made her subject to a sexual harm prevention order and to be placed on the sex offenders register for 10 years.

# Sadie Morris



Female paedophile, [Sadie Morris](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/mum-shouts-rot-jail-you-8455807), then 24, was found guilty in 2016 of sexually assaulting ‘by penetration’ a three-year-old girl and sending images of the act to others. Morris also posed naked with the girl in pictures she circulated. Morris denied the charges and showed no sign of recognising having done wrong. The jury of seven men and five women found her guilty on what the judge described as "overwhelming evidence". [Morris was jailed for 5 years](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3785904/Female-paedophile-jailed-five-years-sexually-assaulting-three-year-old-girl.html).

# Amanda Tompkins



Sex mad mother, [Amanda Tompkins](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4368014/Mother-39-did-striptease-underage-schoolboys.html#ixzz4y3Du6ppQ), 39, was jailed for seven years for 10 counts of physical and sexual abuse with six boys at her home while they were aged between 13 and 15. She regularly invited underage schoolboys to her home in Milton Keynes and let them drink alcohol and do drugs. The 39-year-old even performed a striptease. She would have sex with the teenage boys while her youngest children were also in her home. She told one boy she was pregnant with his child and needed to get an abortion. The judge called her a disgrace.

# Beverley Tillyer



Single divorced mother [Beverley Tillyer](http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/mum-jailed-for-having-sex-with-14-year-old-schoolboys-at-her-pontefract-home-1-8558269), 40, was convicted in 2017. Her abuse of three different boys had taken place several years earlier when she was in her early 30s. She initially denied the charges and claimed the boys had raped her. But was filmed as she had a three-some with two of the 14-year-old boys. Tillyer had sex with the first victim on six occasions, twice with the second victim and on one occasion with the third victim. She hosted parties at her home where the teenagers were allowed to drink and take drugs.

Attempting to mitigate the offences, her defending counsel claimed that Tillyer suffered from anxiety and a personality disorder, and that “she was seeking intimacy rather than seeking to exploit them for sexual gratification.”

The judge said: “You took advantage of those boys when you should have shown a more responsible attitude. The adult has to take care of children even when they are 14 and think they know it all. Because of the degree of seriousness here, it does seem to me that there has to be a prison sentence.“ Vanessa Rolfe of the Wakefield District Child Safeguarding Unit, said: “Tillyer took advantage of these impressionable children and committed sexual offences against all of them in full knowledge that her behaviour was both illegal and completely morally wrong.”

Tillyer was jailed for two and a half years and also told she must go on the sex offenders register for ten years.

# Nicola Fox



This [case concerns Nicola Fox](http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/top-lawyer-says-nicola-fox-715043) who forced a 13 year old boy with no previous sexual experience to have sex with her. Fox lured the boy into her house, saying she wanted a chat with him. She then slammed the door shut and barricaded it with a table so he could not escape. Fox pinned him down to the bed using her weight. She removed her trousers and lower clothing then [held the boy's hands over his head and forced sexual intercourse on him](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4868122/Woman-paedophile-33-jailed-forcing-boy-sex.html). He made it absolutely clear he did not want her to do what she did, telling her to stop and to get off. He struggled and was crying at one point. Were it possible for a woman to rape in English law, this would clearly be rape – and rape with force at that.

The Hull Daily Mail report states, “*Her response was to tell him to stop crying, and she said that in an annoyed and aggressive tone. He felt annoyed, upset and embarrassed. During the ordeal, the boy had treated Fox with dignity because of her gender, and did not want to hurt her by using violence to free himself*.” (This is a common reaction of males to being sexually assaulted by women, e.g., see [this](http://www.vocativ.com/underworld/crime/hard-truth-girl-guy-rape/)).

Fox has been sentenced to 4 years in prison. At the Court of Appeal in London, Louise Oakley, representing Attorney General Jeremy Wright QC, claimed Fox had been treated differently because of her gender. Oakley said: "*It cannot be right that a female who commits an offence is dealt with more leniently than a male, simply because she is female*." Lady Justice Hallett, presiding at the appeal, agreed that leniency had been shown but argued that mitigation was justified due to Nicola Fox’s mental health problems. She declined to alter the sentence.

# Jodie Delray



[Jodie Delray](http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/crime/lyng-woman-jodie-delray-35-jailed-for-grooming-boy-for-sex-1-5203091), 35, was jailed for 5 years and 6 months for sexual activity with boys aged 12 and 13. There was an element of grooming to her behaviour and an aggravating feature of the abuse was the disparity in their ages. She was convicted by the jury of six of the nine counts she faced. The judge said she had started by sexually assaulting the boy and this was a precursor to them going on to engage in sex. “Full sex began to occur initiated by you. These clandestine sex trysts continued for some time.” He said the Appeal Court had stressed the point about how a teenage boy is often ill-equipped to cope with a premature sexual experience. He made Delray subject to a sexual harm prevention order and placed on the sex offenders’ register for life.

# Alice McBrearty



Teacher [Alice McBrearty](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-41528271), 23, had a ‘full blown sexual relationship’ over four months with a schoolboy aged 15 who she was teaching. She pleaded guilty to seven counts of sexual activity with a child while in a position of trust. She kissed the boy in her classroom, and had sex with him in a hotel room and at her parents’ house. She performed sex acts on him in her car. Their relationship ended when the boy's father contacted police. The judge described her as a "bright, intelligent and gifted young woman, who knew right from wrong," but who had committed the "grossest breach of trust". She was jailed for 16 months.

# Susan Janet Ayres



Susan Janet Ayres, 42, mother of two, teaching assistant, admitted to kissing and flirting with a pupil (17) at a special needs school. Ayres had been working at Crowdys Hill School for special needs children for three years when the relationship began. Ayres began taking the boy for drives after she ferried him and another pupil to gym classes. On one occasion they visited Weston-super-Mare, where they were said to have held hands. The boy said that on one of these drives she leant over to kiss him on the lips. “He says he felt sorry for her so he kissed her hand,” In a text Ayres wrote “You’re sexy, you taste delicious.”The boy, who has a tremor, told police that he had to pause his Playstation because she would text him a lot. When they went for drives, she said they had to be careful because she didn’t want to get caught.” The boy alleged that Ayres had once encouraged the boy to join his friend in taking off his shirt on one gym trip

In a witness statement, the boy hinted that the discovery of the relationship had left him feeling suicidal: “I walked into roads about five or six times,” he said. “I had just had enough of it all.”

The court heard that Ayres, 41, of York Road, began a relationship with her 17-year-old pupil after a breakdown in her marriage left her emotionally vulnerable. Defending, Cathy Thornton said that at the time of the relationship Ayres was at a low point personally and professionally. She painted a picture for magistrates of a “lady separated from her husband, struggling to cope emotionally”. She was also stressed after struggling to “essentially write” a school retail course. “I don’t think she was in the right frame of mind to assess things logically,” Ms Thornton said. She received a 12-week suspended sentence.

# Emma Webb

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Emma-Webb.jpg)

In years up to 2012, 44 year old ex-teaching assistant [Emma Webb](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/emma-webb-ex-teaching-assistant-sex-5333978) had sex with a string of underage schoolboys in Wokingham. The latest offenses against two boys took place in her own home, in her car and at the boys' school. She assaulted boys of 15 and 16 with no previous sexual experience. At her trial in 2014 the court was told these events were "a disgraceful abuse of her power".

The court heard that Webb texted the boys, telling them to leave lessons, and would lead them to a deserted maths classroom at the Wokingham school where she worked. There she performed oral sex on them. On one occasion she lured the 16-year-old around to her house for a sex session after messaging him via Facebook, telling him her husband was out. In another instance she texted the boy telling him to excuse himself from class, before dragging him into an empty maths room and asking: "Are you going to fuck me or not?" One day she offered to give him a lift home but she pulled her Jeep into a deserted car park and told him "before I go, I just want to do something" and unbuttoned his trousers and performed oral sex on him. After she had finished she performed a sex act on herself, groaning loudly.

Webb asked the 15 year old boy to keep the Bluetooth function on his phone activated so she could send him pictures of herself in her underwear playing with sex toys. The pair would kiss on the stairs at school and then have sex. In another instance, she drove the youngster to a secluded area of woodland, where they had sex on the back seat of her car. Webb told the boy it did not matter about using a condom because she was unable to have children.

The judge was told that the boy had been reluctant to report the affair to the police because Webb had threatened him with her husband, who was a black belt in karate. He feared a reprisal attack.

Her punishment?

Webb escaped jail being given only a suspended sentence and was ordered to undergo two years of supervision by the probation service and to pay a £100 victim surcharge. Mr Recorder John Gallagher told her she was only avoiding prison because she had already been punished for previous offences.

That's right. She avoided prison because she had previously been jailed for 32 months after admitting sexual assault of five other pupils at the same school.

Having let her off, the tough judge said, "this is your last chance, there can be no more of this."

Note that, in all newspaper reports of sexual assaults by women, rather than using words like "assault" or "abuse" words like "affair" or "sex romp" or "having a fling" are used. Here's another recent case.

# Charlotte Parker

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Charlotte-Parker.png)

According to the newspapers, [Charlotte Parker](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2791114/teaching-assistant-sent-thousands-texts-starting-two-year-affair-14-year-old-schoolboy.html), a 32 year old married teaching assistant, had a "torrid two-year affair" with a male pupil, starting when he was 14. According to the judge, though, the word "affair" did not cut it. He said,

"Let me make this abundantly clear, this is a case of gross child abuse. People who work as teaching assistants, whatever their gender, who take advantage of victims, of any gender, commit very serious offences indeed. It makes no difference that the victim was a boy. It makes no difference he may have thought he was in a relationship with you. The law is there to stop people taking advantage of children."

Quite, well said, judge - but in 2014 he still gave her only a suspended sentence.

At the time of the offences (the newspapers used the word "affair"), Parker was employed at the Hyland's Academy in Chelmsford, Essex, and the teenage boy was a student in her class. The abuse (the phrase used in the newspapers was "illicit dalliance") reportedly started after the boy, who was 14 at the time, sent his teacher an innocent Christmas card. Soon after the boy turned 15, the pair embarked on a physical relationship. For two years, Parker managed to keep her abuse of the boy secret. During that time she sent him several thousand lewd texts. When his parents found out about the abuse Parker threatened to kill herself.

Explaining his decision to issue a suspended sentence, Judge Austin Stotan stated that although the boy was underage, he was a willing participant in the affair. Really? But, judge, are you not aware that the law says an underage person cannot give consent?

# Eppie Sprung Dawson

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Eppie-Sprung-Dawson.jpg)

In 2013, teacher [Eppie Sprung Dawson](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2521200/Woman-teacher-27-half-naked-pupil-17-struck-2-years.html" \t "_blank), 27, was caught "half naked" having sex with her pupil Matthew Robinson, 17, by police in a lay-by. It's been illegal since 2000 for a teacher to have sex with a pupil under 18, even if it's consensual. The four-month sexual "affair" (that word again) ended Dawson's marriage and career, but she was spared jail. She was put on the sex offenders register. Nevertheless she can apply to be a teacher again after two years (so, she will have done so by now).

# Bernadette Smith

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Bernadette-Smith.jpg)

In 2013, 35 year old teacher [Bernadette Smith](http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/married-teacher-bernadette-smith-spared-3185546) had "an affair" (that word yet again) with her 16-year-old pupil, Gary Ralston after she confided in him about her marriage breakdown. Gary is described in the newspapers as "fresh faced". The photos show someone you would unhesitatingly describe as a child (I don't think it's right to include a photo here). The pair started meeting in the local park (nothing shady there at all) and their relationship soon turned physical, although Smith insisted that 'nothing sexual happened' beyond kissing. And yet she spent the night with him in his bed in jeans and a bra after the "affair" was discovered. Smith looked surprised as the sheriff decided not to jail her and she left Stirling Sheriff's Court with a broad grin across her face. [Gary's parents were not impressed](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/married-teacher-bernadette-smith-grins-3186077). His father said, “It’s not right. She’s a sex offender, pure and simple”. They have reason to be even less impressed since she [failed to sign-on as a sex offender](http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/sex-scandal-teacher-bernadette-smith-3155454) at her local police station as she was required to do.

# Mary-Ellen Mooney

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Mary-Ellen-Mooney2.jpg)

Babysitter, [Mary-Ellen Mooney](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3312346/Babysitter-forced-13-year-old-boy-perform-sex-acts-onesie-party-avoids-jail.html), then 18, forced a 13-year-old boy to perform sex acts on her when she was supposed to be looking after him. In 2014, Mary-Ellen Mooney, from Milton Keynes, rubbed the boy's thigh, and sat on top of him, straddling him face to face. She kissed him on the lips. He described it as open and closed mouth. She put his hand down her pyjamas, then placed her hand over his through the clothing. Mooney committed sex acts on the boy on three separate occasions.

Later she sent a number of sexually explicit messages to the boy through Facebook. The court was told the messages read: "We should meet up, just me and you. Keep it hush hush - don't tell [a friend]. You are fairly mature for your age and you're not bad looking. I have got a really soft spot for you, babe. I think you have a hidden talent. I think you could handle me. You are going to take control of me and show your dominant side. It isn't about size, it's the way you use it." During the exchange she also said she 'could get into trouble' if anyone else read the messages. Clearly Mooney was well aware that what she was doing was wrong.

Her defence barrister said Mooney should have any jail sentence suspended so that she would benefit from one-to-one courses aimed to teach defendants appropriate sexual behaviour - something the defence claimed is not made available to serving prisoners. Personally I have no great difficulty with such a suggestion, except, of course, that few people would extend such consideration to male offenders. To prison with the wicked men and to hell with any constructive treatment.

The judge, Karen Holt, said "The law reflects the seriousness of this abuse of trust on a child so young. As far as you are concerned, it is right I take into account your background - you have a sad background. You have not got into trouble despite your poor parenting. Bearing in mind your age and lack of previous convictions, your case doesn't meet the criteria for any form of imprisonment for public protection. A custodial sentence is appropriate. I have spent some time, bearing in mind all the circumstances, on whether that has to be an immediate custodial sentence. I am just about persuaded I don't need to send you to prison today." Again one wonders whether this same judge would have been "just about persuaded" against a custodial sentence if an 18 year old male had done the same things. The statistical evidence suggests not. I suggest that the judge would never have considered anything other than a custodial sentence for a male. In the case of a male, a disadvantaged background would not have been sufficient mitigation. Also, the judge would not have been so likely to dismiss the issue of "public protection" in the case of a male defendant, I suspect.

Mooney was given a two-year prison sentence suspended for two years

# Helen Turnbull

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Helen-Turnbull.jpg)

Married, 35 year old teaching assistant [Helen Turnbull](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/teaching-assistant-cleared-having-sex-4663640) was cleared by a jury of three allegations of sexual activity with the 16-year-old pupil but admitted sexual activity with a child by a person in a position of trust. She sent pictures of herself in lingerie to the 16-year-old, asked him what colour knickers she should wear to a meeting and told him [he would be a legend](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3239972/Teaching-assistant-life-left-tatters-fling-pupil-spared-prison-second-time-ran-motorist-damaged-two-cars-drunk.html) if he had sex with her on her school desk. She was sentenced to four months in prison - but suspended for two years by judge Peter Armstrong. But her husband said, after the hearing, that he had [caught her 'in a clinch' with another boy](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/helen-turnbull-ex-husband-teaching-assistant-4671961), aged 17, previously. He realised where her priorities lay when she replaced a picture of their daughter with a picture of her together with a boy pupil.

Turnbull must be able to charm judges. She has [escaped prison again](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3239972/Teaching-assistant-life-left-tatters-fling-pupil-spared-prison-second-time-ran-motorist-damaged-two-cars-drunk.html) after she ran down a motorist and damaged two cars while drunk. Teesside Crown Court was shown video of her slurring words in her car. She even failed to give a breath sample to the police and failed to stop at the site of the crash. After such an offence one might have expected the previously suspended sentence to be activated. But, no. The judge told her "I am satisfied that there is ample protection to the public". Really, judge? As long as you are not a teenage boy or a road user anyway.

# Caroline Berriman

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Caroline-Berriman-2.png)

30 year old teaching assistant [Caroline Berriman](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3246760/Shamed-teaching-assistant-30-escapes-jail-admitted-having-sex-teenage-student.html#ixzz3rJ2zRTDO) admitted having oral and penetrative sex with a boy. In 2015 Berriman was initially given a two-year suspended prison sentence for three crimes: two counts of sexual activity with a child, and a third count of sexual activity in a position of trust. The boy was 15 at the time. Berriman was suspended then dismissed from Abraham Moss Community School, Manchester. After sentence was passed [the boy criticised her suspended two-year sentence](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3252949/Schoolboy-seduced-disgraced-teaching-assistant-reveals-sex-50-times-told-pregnant.html) as ‘atrocious’. He said their relationship grew to such an extent that Berriman’s two-year-old daughter started calling him ‘dad’. They had unprotected sex 80 times. Berriman tried moral blackmail on the boy, telling him she was pregnant and demanding he run away with her "or it would break my daughter's heart". The court of appeal sentenced her to [immediate custody for two years](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/12001392/Teaching-assistant-who-groomed-schoolboy-jailed-after-suspended-sentence-deemed-too-lenient.html).

# Kelly Ann-Marie Burgess

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Kelly-Ann-Marie-Burgess.png)

[Kelly Ann-Marie Burgess](http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/11132346.Newport_teacher_who_slept_with_pupil_spared_jail/), 26, a teacher from Newport, pleaded guilty to four counts of the sexual offence "abuse of position of trust by engaging in sexual activity with a child". The offences, spanning a period from January 1, 2013 to August 28, 2013, concern a sexual relationship Burgess had with a pupil aged under 18, whom she was teaching at the school where she worked. The "affair" lasted 7 months. The matter came to light when the pair visited a sexual health clinic. More than 1,200 text messages between the pair were found on Burgess's phone,  including sexually explicit content. Police also recovered naked pictures of the pupil stored on Burgess's 'phone. The court heard how the pair went away together on two separate occasions. In January 2013, the pupil accompanied Burgess on a teacher training weekend. There the pupil stayed in a hotel with Burgess, paid for by the school as part of a training course. The two went away again in July 2013 on a camping weekend where sexual activity again took place. Burgess admitted to seeing the pupil at least once a week outside of school for the purposes of sex. Burgess was sentenced to ten months for each count, to be served concurrently and suspended for two years. She was ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work. She has been added to the sex offenders register and automatically barred from working with young adults or children.

# Karen Ackland

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Karen_Ackland.jpg)

Then there was the delightful [Karen Ackland](http://www.kentonline.co.uk/deal/news/deal-mothers-betrayal-by-karen-ackland-21170), divorced 44 year old  mother of two, who took advantage of being offered a bed in a friend's house after a party to sexually assault her son, aged 14. Ackland pounced on the boy as he got ready for bed and used him as her "sex object" - only to be rumbled when his older brother heard her making sex noises. The boy later told a friend: "I went to get into my trackies and she stripped naked in front of me. We had sex but it was really weird. She kept asking me to spit on her and all these weird things". Ackland initially tried to claim that the boy initiated the sex, but changed her plea to guilty at the last minute. In 2014 Ackland was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court to a nine-month jail sentence - suspended for a year. The boy's mother was not impressed. She opined that female offenders should be treated the same as male offenders: that Ackland should have gone to prison.

# Jade Hatt

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Jade-Hatt.jpg)

And I haven't mentioned yet the 'celebrated' case of [Jade Hatt](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11911629/Babysitter-spared-jail-after-having-sex-with-boy-aged-11.html), the 21 year old babysitter from Swindon whose idea of 'looking after' an 11 year old boy included full sexual intercourse. She simply stripped off, then stripped him, then straddled him.

Judge Tim Mousley QC said it was an exceptional case that allowed him to step outside the rigours of the sentencing guidelines. He claimed that, because the boy was a mature 11-year-old and Hatt was an immature 20-year-old, "that narrows the arithmetic age gap between you". On this spurious ground he imposed a six month sentence suspended for two years. There has been wide spread concern about this sentence which is [under review by the Attorney General](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/babysitter-who-sex-schoolboy-11-6596947). (Added later: the decision went [against a more severe sentence](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3351230/Babysitter-sex-11-year-old-boy-NOT-jail.html)).

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# Emma Harfield

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Emma-Harfield.jpg)

Then there was [Emma Harfield](http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/education/i-don-t-think-she-saw-the-gifts-as-a-kind-of-grooming-1-5821086#axzz3rJN4remc) who, as a 29 year old teacher was found to have had "inappropriate relationships" with two boys. The inappropriate relationships involved having the boys in her bed. They also involved her showering them with expensive gifts and kissing. The relationships continued even after a family friend had warned her to stay away. One of the boys, 15 at the time, later said he was relieved when the police intervened. Harfield had been forcing a relationship he had no interest in by grooming and stalking. The boy spoke to the press urging others in his predicament to speak out. As far as I am aware Harfield faced no criminal prosecution. In 2014 she was, however, [banned from teaching for life](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/293236/harfield_emma_jane_-_web_decision.pdf).

# Ruth Vaughan

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Ruth-Vaughan.png)

Some cases are, admittedly, more borderline - for example that of [Ruth Vaughan](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2966955/Teacher-sex-sixth-former-boarding-school-banned-classroom.html) who, as a 24 year old teacher started a sexual affair with an 18 year old  pupil at the elite £30,000 per year Oakham school where she worked. The case brought no criminal prosecution but was judged to be a breach of trust and Vaughan was indefinitely banned from teaching in England.

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# Yvonne Preston

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Yvonne-Preston.jpg)

Similarly, consider the case of teacher [Yvonne Preston](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/teacher-infatuated-pupil-showered-gifts-3870546) whose infatuation with a pupil was terminated by her ban from teaching before it could become physical. Essentially it was a case of stalking or grooming. She had been showering the boy in question with gifts, sending him inappropriate texts, asking him to dance with her in class and behaving in a manner which must have been difficult for the boy to deal with. She would be permitted to apply to have her teaching ban lifted after two years – long since passed.

# Marie McCarthy

It is not only men subject to historical allegations of sexual abuse. [Marie McCarthy](http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/gran-who-groomed-stole-virginity-10277881), now 62, was tried recently for sexual offenses against a 15 year old boy 29 years ago when she was 33. In 1986 McCarthy visited the boy’s mum and when he came downstairs in a towel to get something for his bath she wolf-whistled at him. As he left the room he heard her telling his mum that if she went after him he “would go up the stairs as a boy and come down as a man.” While he was in the bath she came in, plunged her hand into the water and grabbed his private parts and after making a sexual remark she left laughing.

A week later he was at her Huyton home looking after her young son when she sat next to him wearing a tight nightdress and after saying everything would be all right began stroking different parts of his body. She helped him undress, before they had sexual intercourse. “He did not fancy her but did not know how to stop what was happening,” said the prosecutor. Over the next six weeks McCarthy orchestrated about 30 other occasions for various sexual activity and the boy felt coerced into taking part. Eventually he told his mum’s partner who said he would sort it out but McCarthy continued her abuse of the boy. She would say, “I have to have you” and “I can’t stop myself.”

Judge Watson summed up as follows. “You manipulated him for your own sexual advantage, you groomed him. You knew the riot of emotions he, as a 15year-old, was going through as adolescence and puberty sent him one way and then the other. You used him as your sexual plaything. I hope you now realise your behaviour has cast a shadow over his life for the last 29 and a half years. An appalling shadow which has had a real impact upon him. If anyone thought it was the sort of behaviour a 15-year-old boy would fantasise about, this case gives the lie to that very false picture. You deserve to go to prison for what you did, it was not a one off but a string of different sexual acts against him that summer. The very fact that he came forward last year to tell someone tells you it is not something he has been able to leave behind at all.”

Then the judge sentenced her to 21 months in prison - suspended for 2 years. Yet again, no jail for the female offender. Her victim "stormed angrily" out of the courtroom.

# Hayley Southwell

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Hayley-Southwell.jpg)

Is this lenience to women sex offenders because the victim is male? There may be an element of that, but it is certainly not the only factor. Women offending against girls are also treated leniently. Take the case of 27 year old Cumbrian teacher [Hayley Southwell](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-28760459). She groomed a 15 year old girl pupil, including the use of a large number of "intimate and explicit" text messages and moving images. They 'counted down the days' until her 16th birthday after which the teacher admitted they had had a sexual relationship (it would seem in ignorance of such an act still being illegal at 16). The judge said the explicit texts and images were a significant aggravating feature. Nevertheless, he gave Southwell only a suspended sentence on the basis that "the relationship appeared to be a case of mutual affection". Hmm, I think we can conclude there was some mutual affection between Rolf Harris and his daughter's friend, given that their adult affair lasted 10 or 11 years. But what's mitigation for the goose is not mitigation for the gander, clearly.

# Charlotte Holl

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Charlotte-Holl.jpg)

And here's another involving a female victim, in this case no older than 12. [Charlotte Holl](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2717566/Female-beauty-pageant-judge-25-groomed-young-girl-1-200-texts-social-media-messages-sexually-assaulting-her.html), 25, was a female beauty pageant judge when she intensively groomed and ultimately sexually assaulted a young girl, plying her with cigarettes and alcohol. Holl sent 1,200 texts and social media messages to her victim  - who was under 13-years-old. But Holl was spared jail. She was given an 18-month jail sentence suspended for two years after she admitted four sexual assaults on the girl and "being an adult who met a girl following grooming".

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# Sandrine Brown

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Sandrine-Brown.jpg)

Then there is the case of Coventry PE teacher, [Sandrine Brown](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3289803/Female-PE-teacher-31-facing-jail-admitting-sex-acts-two-teenage-girls-caught-bed-time.html), 31, who admitted sex acts with two teenage girl pupils from her school. She was caught in bed with both girls, aged 13 and 16, at same time leading to Brown's arrest in April this year. Brown is yet to be sentenced and may face jail.

# Gayle Newland

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Gail-Newland.jpg)

Oddest of all in respect of female-on-female sex offenses are those which involve the abuser pretending to be male. A case currently topical is that of 25 year old [Gayle Newland](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/fake-penis-woman-jailed-8-6816766%23rlabs=3%20rt$category%20p$8) of Cheshire. Her victim, though, was another adult woman, also 25. The complainant and Newland were friends, as women. But the complainant claimed that Newland had also taken the persona of a man and had tricked her into wearing a blindfold whenever they met, including the ten or so times they had sex - with Newland wearing a prosthetic penis. The defendant claimed, unsuccessfully, that there was no blindfold and her partner was both consenting and knowing regarding her true gender. False accusation? Who knows, but I suspect that impersonating a man made Newland's position in court far more problematic for her defence. She got eight years - clearly her male impersonation was good enough to get a man's sentence.

# Christine Wilson

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Christine-Wilson.jpg)

Oddly, a similar case earlier this year, and involving underage girls, failed to attract attention - that of [Christine Wilson](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/9982142/Teenage-victim-of-woman-who-pretended-to-be-a-man-speaks-out.html) of Aberdeen. She was 19 to 21 when the offences took place; her victims were 13. Presenting herself as a 17 year old male, Wilson "used a sex toy to persuade the girls of her sex". Unlike the Newland case, the virginal girls in question would be easier to fool. Unusually one of the victims has identified herself, Megan Adie. She was unaware of the deceit until the police told her and was outraged at the sentence Wilson received: probation and 240 hours community service. Adie said, "She will be able to go back to her own house and lie in her own bed again. I will also be lying in mine, still trying to deal with what she has done to me. I really hope the judge has thought this sentence through because if Christine does this again, I hope he knows it’s on his conscience". Judges don't think like that, Adie.

The judge said that Wilson's gender identity disorder led her to genuinely feel that she was male and that significantly lowered her culpability. My mind just refuses the fence on that one. Had Wilson felt authentically like a man she would have had a heightened sense of culpability, not the reverse. Moreover, her feelings are not the issue. If I genuinely believe I deserve that BMW 7-series I just stole, does that justify my theft? The issue, in any case, is unlawful sexual activity with a minor - regardless of Wilson's sex or sexuality. What do we pay these judges for?

These male-impersonator cases may not be as rare as you'd think. There was a documentary on UK TV a couple of years ago in which a late-teenage girl had fooled a younger girl into believing she was a boy. She ended up in bed with her and raped her with a 6 inch wooden dildo. A woman acquaintance who watched the documentary with me opined, "she's not a rapist, she's just a poor confused girl". Well, of course, those two statements are not mutually exclusive. My annoyance at the remark lies, as always, in the double standard. Had the girl been a boy and behaved in exactly the same way, there would be no qualification of the designation "rapist". Having the nerve to suggest that a male perpetrator might be a "poor confused boy" would not be well received, and might meet with screeches of "rape apologist".

# Loren Morris

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Loren-Morris.jpg)

Female sex offenders do not always escape gaol. Such cases, however, are generally more heinous than those reviewed above. For example, [Loren Morris](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2583647/Female-paedophile-21-jailed-two-years-sex-eight-year-old-boy-50-times-starting-16.html#ixzz2wONnNOyS) was jailed for a nominal two years in March 2014 (though she will actually have been released long ago). Morris had full sexual intercourse with an eight year old boy at least 50 times, starting when she was 16. She continued having sex with the boy until he was 10. Now 21, Morris has a child of her own. The photo, above, showing her smiling and smoking, was taken outside court as she awaited her sentence.

# Caron Lewty

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Caron-Lewty.jpg)

And there was the case of [Caron Lewty](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3163724/Music-teacher-48-sex-vulnerable-boy-17-taught-special-needs-school-jailed.html%23ixzz3rDjSfgSX), the 48 year old music teacher from Leeds, who was jailed in 2015 for 6 months for sex offences against a vulnerable 17 year old boy at the special needs school where she worked. The boy was described as having learning difficulties, a general developmental delay and a lack of stranger-danger awareness. Lewty kissed and exchanged flirty messages with the vulnerable teenager and they also engaged in sexual activity in her bed on two occasions. Lewty, released from prison long ago, will be on the sex offenders register until 2022.

# Madeleine Martin

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Madeleine-Martin.jpg)

Consider the case of married religious studies teacher [Madeleine Martin](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1230882/Married-RE-teacher-Madeleine-Martin-jailed-having-sex-15-year-old-schoolboy.html), the 39-year-old mother of two, who was jailed for 32 months and placed on the sex offenders' register for sleeping with a 15-year-old male pupil. She had sex with the boy, who was younger than her own daughter, on many occasions, either in her car or in her house when her daughters were out. She even had the boy tattoo her name on his arm.

# Anne Lakey

[](http://mra-uk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Anne-Lakey-2.jpg)

There was also [Anne Lakey](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3137371/Headteacher-hailed-visionary-jailed-EIGHT-years-sleeping-underage-boys-1980s.html), tried for historical sex offences who was sentenced to eight years in prison. Lakey, now 55, was a nationally acclaimed head teacher in the 1980s. Earlier in her career, starting at age 28 when she was a history teacher, she groomed two boys, aged 13 and 15.

While she was married to the second of three husbands, Lakey had groomed the younger victim. He was encouraged to expose her breasts during a dare game at her home before she let him watch her bathe. She then took his virginity on the marital bed while he was still in his school uniform. She seduced the other boy in a tent at a camp in the middle of the night after she encouraged him to sneak over. The teacher had told her husband Eamonn Toland to sleep in a separate tent before asking the boy to visit her. She had repeated sexual relations with the two boys over several years.

Lakey denied all the allegations but admitted having a legal, sexual relationship with the older complainant when he was 18. The police were of the view that more victims may be involved and urged others to come forward.

# Angela Sullivan



In 2010 [Angela Sullivan](https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2010/feb/26/woman-jailed-for-sex-with-boy) then aged 36 and single mother-of-one, was convicted for having sex with a 12 year old boy 191 times. She kept a detailed diary of their occasions of sexual intercourse. Sullivan rewarded the boy with new trainers after their 100th “tryst” (to use the word appearing in some news reports). The abuse started on the night of a party she threw at her home. Alcohol, including spirits, was made freely available by Sullivan to the young children at the party. The boy against whom she offended later told police he had consumed 10 bottles of the vodka-based drink WKD and was very drunk. Sullivan had sex with the boy in that condition, warning him afterwards not to tell. She then preyed upon, and took complete advantage of, the young boy – having sex with him on 190 further occasions. She was jailed for nine years.