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MG11(W)

CPS Use Only

WITNESS STATEMENT (Criminal Procedure Rules R16.2, Criminal Justice Act 1967 S9)			
		URN	
Statement of	David CREGEEN		
Age if under 18	OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')	Occupation	ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER
This statement (consisting of 15 page(s)) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.			
Signature	Signature DWCregeen(Sep 17, 2024 17:18 GMT+1)	Date	17/09/2024
Signature of parent / guardian / appropriate adult	x _____	Relationship of parent / guardian / appropriate adult	
Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on MG11 Back) 1. My name is David Cregeen and I have been a teacher for over 25 years. Background 2. I have been asked by the police to provide a statement in relation to Axel Rudakubana and his time at Range High School. 3. In producing this statement, I have not had primary access to resources as my employment at Range High School ended in September 2022. Therefore, I have based my statement on items forwarded to me from the police via the school. I have no reason to believe that the data provided is inaccurate. I have relied on the material that has been provided to inform the content of my statement. That materials I accessed are listed at the end of my statement, with exhibit references attached. 4. I am unable to be certain as to some of the dates and times of emails, as precise details of			

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some correspondence were not logged in the Weld House Log Excel spreadsheet, one of the documents I relied on. 5. The following statement is based on school records (2017-2019) and records I produced and logged as a pastoral and senior leader between April 2019 and January 2020. My roles at Range High School between 2017 - 2022 6. When Axel Rudakubana was enrolled at Range High School (2017) I held a pastoral lead role as Head of Weld House. On being admitted to Range High each student was allocated to one of four Houses. Axel Rudakubana was placed into Weld House. My key role as Head of Weld House was to oversee the pastoral care of approximately 300 pupils in Years 7-13. I held this position up to July 2019. 7. In 2019 I became an Associate Leader in the Senior Leadership Team. A key responsibility of this senior role was to oversee the safety of all members of the school community as the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) from September 2019 to July 2020. 8. Between July 2020 and August 2022, I was an Assistant Headteacher and DSL. 9. In September 2022 I left Range High to take up my current position as Assistant Headteacher at Ballakermeen High School, Isle of Man – a position I still hold today.		

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Axel Rudakubana – Year 7 and 8 – Range High School 10. Axel Rudakubana (DOB 07.08.06) was enrolled at Range High School on September 4, 2017, and permanently excluded on October 9, 2019. 11. Information recorded on the School Information Management System (SIMS) showed that Axel Rudakubana's attendance in Year 7 (04.09.17 -25.07.18) was 98.15% (see Exhibit DC/10). As a Year 7 pupil, interim assessment cards reporting progress, attitude to learning, participation and effort, as well as the end of year report, showed no major concerns as Axel Rudakubana's progress was on or slightly below target. In his end of Year 7 report his Form Tutor commented that Axel Rudakubana was a quiet member of the tutor group, who was friendly with most of the boys in the group, and he had achieved 187 merits for positive contributions (see Exhibit DC/19). 12. In Year 8 (03.09.18 - 25.07.19) Axel Rudakubana's attendance was 94.97% (see Exhibit DC/11). Similar to Year 7 reports, no major concerns were highlighted in the interim report as progress was on or slightly below target, while attitude to learning, participation and effort were satisfactory to good. However, several comments in the end of year report raised concerns about Axel Rudakubana's progress and him being distracted by, or distracting, others, though this was not consistent across all subject areas (see Exhibit DC/20). 13. Year 7 was a largely uneventful year for Axel Rudakubana in terms of pastoral concerns,		

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however, towards the end of Year 8 some concerns were raised. Axel Rudakubana reported an alleged racist incident on April 23, 2019. This was alleged to have been heard by two boys during a science lesson, who then told Axel Rudakubana about the comments, but not heard by Axel Rudakubana himself. The same day, the matter was reported to the Heads of Sefton and Blundell House for investigation (see Exhibit DC/24). To my knowledge, this claim was not substantiated. 14. In June 2019, concerns regarding Axel Rudakubana's attitude in Art and English were raised by subject teachers and discussed with Axel Rudakubana's father, Alphonse Rudakubana (see Exhibit DC/24). 15. Concerns regarding comments made by Axel Rudakubana on social media were also discussed with Alphonse Rudakubana, and printouts of the comments were forwarded to Alphonse Rudakubana. I cannot recall the exact nature of these, but further details may be held on school records. As a further support intervention, Vicky Alexander (Assistant SENDCo) kindly agreed to spend time with Axel Rudakubana during any detentions in an effort to support his behaviour and progress in school (see Exhibit DC/24). Consideration of Axel Rudakubana having ADHD 16. To follow up concerns regarding the possibility of having ADHD, teachers of Axel Rudakubana were asked to complete an ADHD survey by Vicky Alexander.	

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17. Results from the survey indicated poor behaviour rather than ADHD traits and this information was conveyed to Alphonse Rudakubana in a meeting with him, me and Vicky Alexander on July 9, 2019 (see Exhibit DC/24). 18. Alphonse Rudakubana was not convinced by the outcomes of the survey, so I relayed the key findings to him. Axel Rudakubana – Year 9 – Range High School 19. At the start of Year 9 (i.e aged 13) Axel Rudakubana's behaviour began to deteriorate. 20. On September 20, 2019, Axel Rudakubana was involved in an incident in an English lesson. He hit another pupil in response to the boy hitting him on the head. The other boy concerned said that he had been called 'fat' by Axel Rudakubana so he had tapped him on the back of the head. The English teacher offered to mediate between the two boys to help repair the relationship during a morning tutor period, but Axel didn't want to speak to the teacher and the boys concerned. Axel Rudakubana was given a detention for the incident (see Exhibit DC/24). 21. In October 2019 (exact date unclear on the Weld House Log timestamp – a system used to record pastoral concerns prior to Range High purchasing the Class Charts system), Alphonse Rudakubana contacted me via email to express concerns about Axel Rudakubana's relationship with another boy, who he claimed had threatened Axel Rudakubana. An email to the other boy's		

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Head of House to investigate the concern was made on October 4, 2019 (see Exhibit DC/24). The other pupil gave his version of events and claimed that he and Axel Rudakubana had said they were going to have a fight, but they were only messing. He also claimed that Axel Rudakubana had said unpleasant things about his mum. He said he later asked why Axel Rudakubana had said those things and Axel Rudakubana said he didn't know and walked off. The boys were in four subjects together so staff teaching the pair together were asked to rearrange their seating plans and remain vigilant when the two were together in lessons (see Exhibit DC/17). 22. On October 5, 2019, I emailed Alphonse Rudakubana to inform him that his concern had been referred to the Head of Sefton House to investigate and to express concerns regarding Axel Rudakubana's behaviour in relation to a comment that Axel Rudakubana had made: 'That's why teachers get murdered' following a detention he had been given. Axel Rudakubana had dismissed the comment and said he was referring to a comment from another pupil who had mentioned that a teacher had been murdered the previous year. I also updated Alphonse Rudakubana regarding the concern he raised regarding Axel Rudakubana being threatened (see Exhibit DC/24). Report of knife being brought into school and exclusion 23. On October 7, 2019, PC 4658 Alex McNamee of Lancashire Constabulary emailed the school at 22.13 p.m. to explain that police had been informed by Childline that Axel Rudakubana had contacted them to say that he had been carrying a knife to school recently for ten days due to being bullied by another pupil. PC McNamee said that Childline reported that Axel Rudakubana		

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had brought a knife into school to protect himself. PC McNamee advised that Axel Rudakubana should be searched and spoken to about the concern, also stating that he would be putting in referrals to have interventions put in place for Axel Rudakubana as there was serious concern for this escalating (see Exhibit DC/21). 24. On October 8, 2019, I, along with Vicky Ashworth (Assistant Headteacher), spoke to Axel Rudakubana in relation to the email from PC McNamee. Axel Rudakubana consented for his bag to be searched, but no knife or other dangerous items were found. Axel Rudakubana said that he had brought a knife into school for a period of ten days as he was tired of being pushed around. He said he would have used it to stab someone, but he wouldn't bring one in again (see Exhibit DC/15). 25. When asked about whether he understood the significance of taking such action, were it to be carried out, Axel Rudakubana replied, 'Yes'. During the conversation Axel Rudakubana appeared to show no emotion or remorse. When questioned about a previous concern, when Axel Rudakubana was reported to have commented, 'That's how teachers get murdered', following a detention he had been given, Axel Rudakubana said that the two were unrelated (see Exhibit DC/08). 26. Axel Rudakubana was subsequently isolated from the rest of the school community. I called Alphonse Rudakubana and explained that Axel Rudakubana would stay away from school until the serious matter had been properly investigated. Alphonse Rudakubana collected Axel Rudakubana from school and was advised again that Axel Rudakubana would remain away from school until the		

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serious matter had been investigated (see Exhibit DC/15). 27. A referral form to Sefton Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), including PC McNamee's email to school, was completed and submitted (see Exhibit DC/02). Marie Edgar from Sefton MASH responded to the referral to explain that, due to Axel Rudakubana living in Lancashire, a referral to Lancashire Social Care would have to be made (see Exhibit DC/15). 28. I rang Lancashire Social Care and spoke to Janet Fazackerley to discuss a referral for Axel Rudakubana. Janet explained that police had made a referral, so I didn't need to refer Axel Rudakubana to them (see Exhibit DC/15). 29. I had raised the concern with Sefton MASH as I felt it met the threshold for Child Protection (level 4) (see Exhibit DC/02), but Lancashire Social Care had stepped this down to level 2 (Early Help). An Early Help worker had not yet been identified and I was advised to forward concerns to the police. At 2.24 p.m. I called 101 and spoke to Paige (Collar 12566) who emailed PC McNamee and asked him to call me on my direct line before I left school at 7.00 p.m. PC McNamee returned my call and I explained the steps that the school had taken in relation to the situation he reported the night before. PC McNamee said that he had reported the concern on October 7, 2019, as High Risk and, on checking his computer, the concern remained High Risk (see Exhibit DC/15). 30. On October 9, 2019, a letter from the school informed Alphonse Rudakubana and Axel Rudakubana's mother, Ms Muzayire, of the decision to permanently exclude Axel Rudakubana		

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from Range High School (see Exhibit DC/04). On the same day, consent was obtained from both Alphonse Rudakubana and Axel Rudakubana for Axel Rudakubana to be referred to CAMHS (see Exhibit DC/03).		
31. I submitted a referral via the Single Point of Access at Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust on October 10, 2019 (see Exhibit DC/03). In the referral form I highlighted what Axel Rudakubana had said when questioned on October 8 and that we were very concerned by his mental state and extremely disproportionate response to incidents in school that were being investigated. I finished the referral by saying that Axel Rudakubana needed support, and quickly.		
32. In a letter from the Single Point of Access Duty Team dated October 12, 2019, I was informed that the matter had been discussed at an MDT Triage Meeting. It recommended that the concern should be referred to the Targeted Youth Prevention Team and that Axel Rudakubana's file would be closed to the service (see Exhibit DC/01).		
33. On October 14, 2019, I spoke to Matt Derbyshire from Lancashire MASH and relayed the full sequence of events resulting in Axel Rudakubana's permanent exclusion in a call that lasted 22 minutes (see Exhibit DC/24).		
34. On October 16, 2019, the outcome from the referral from the Single Point of Access Duty Team, dated October 12, 2019, was emailed to Karen Clitheroe at Lancashire County Council (see Exhibit DC/24).		

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Incident following exclusions – November 2019 (see Exhibits DC/13 and DC/24) 35. On November 12, 2019, Axel Rudakubana gained access to Range High School without permission. 36. Around 09.15 a.m. I was alerted that Axel Rudakubana was on school premises. As I left the Weld Office I saw Mr McGarry escorting Axel Rudakubana towards the front of school. Axel Rudakubana was taken to the office of Mr McGarry (Headteacher) by Mr McGarry. 37. I went to Mr McGarry's office and Axel Rudakubana admitted to coming to the school to 'kill' a pupil he had previous issues with. In his bag was a hockey stick and a knife. 38. The police were called and when Axel Rudakubana was spoken to by the officer attending, he said that he brought the hockey stick to kill the pupil he accused of bullying him, but if that didn't work then he would have used the knife. 39. Prior to being apprehended by Mr McGarry, Axel Rudakubana had assaulted another boy by hitting him with the hockey stick. 40. When asked about the assault on this boy, who he had no previous issues with, Axel Rudakubana said he did it because he couldn't find the boy that he was looking for so wanted to	

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get someone. 41. Axel Rudakubana was arrested by the police for bringing a knife onto school premises and a Section 47 for assaulting a pupil with the hockey stick. Post exclusion 42. Following his permanent exclusion on October 9, 2019, Axel Rudakubana moved to The Acorns School and was dual registered until November 29, 2019 (see Exhibit DC/12). 43. On December 2, 2019, Axel Rudakubana was taken off roll at Range High School (see Exhibit DC/12). 44. The Acorns School was contacted on November 12, 2019, to inform them of the arrest of Axel Rudakubana at Range High School that day. I spoke to Jane Eccleston (Headteacher) who said that her school had referred Axel Rudakubana to Prevent, based on advice from Lancashire Police, and that Axel Rudakubana was receiving support from Early Help (see Exhibit DC/24). 45. On November 21, 2019 (Timestamped November 22 on the Weld House Log) I was emailed by Joanne Hodson (Deputy Headteacher at The Acorns School) to say that they had serious safeguarding concerns about Axel Rudakubana (see Exhibit DC/24).		

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46. Joanne Hodson reported that Axel Rudakubana was fixated on another pupil. Axel Rudakubana had alleged he was being bullied by the pupil, but there was no evidence of this. Joanne Hodson also reported that Alphonse Rudakubana claimed that Axel Rudakubana was being targeted. Axel Rudakubana's search history during a school ICT lesson listed school shootings in America, but Alphonse Rudakubana had apparently refuted this claim to Joanne Hodson (see Exhibit DC/24). 47. At Joanne Hodson's request, I forwarded all relevant details relating to Axel Rudakubana that had been submitted to Lancashire County Council weeks earlier (see Exhibit DC/24). 48. Timestamped December 13, 2019, on the Weld House Log, I contacted Jane Eccleston via email to inform her of a conversation I had with the Head of RE the previous day. The Head of RE had raised a possible concern with my predecessor DSL on June 18, 2019. The email raised concerns about Axel Rudakubana's comments made during a Year 8 RE lesson that focussed on Jihad. The trainee teacher taking the lesson looked at the rules of Jihad (holy war) and asked if the Manchester Arena bombing was Jihad. Pupils responded with the correct answer ("no"), except Axel who commented, 'It was a good battle though'. The Head of RE spoke to him at the end of the lesson and asked him what he meant by good and battle and from whose perspective. He said it was from the viewpoint of the suicide bomber and not his own (see Exhibit DC/24). 49. On December 17, 2019, I attended a strategy meeting for Axel Rudakubana I&S I&S in Skelmersdale, Lancashire. Anna Jameson was the social worker allocated to		

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work with the Rudakubana family (see Exhibit DC/24).

50. I also attended a further strategy meeting on January 6, 2020, at the same venue. After this time, due to Axel Rudakubana not being on roll at Range High School, I do not recall being involved in any further activities involving Axel Rudakubana. However, on February 1, 2021, I contacted Anna Jameson and Joanne Hodson via email to inform them that Axel Rudakubana had been in contact with some pupils from Range High via Instagram. The Instagram story mentioned Colonel Gadaffi and, while it didn't contain language immediately concerning, it was deemed as information worthy of sharing with the above-named professionals (see Exhibits DC/22, DC/23, DC/24, DC/25 & DC/26).

I confirm that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Materials shared with me by the police to produce my Statement of Truth:

Zip folder 1

Exhibit DC/01 - Alder Hey CAMHS Letter 2019-10-12 to Range High School.pdf

Exhibit DC/02 - MASH Referral from Range High School 2019-10.pdf

Exhibit DC/03 - Range High School Referral Letter to Alder Hey CAMHS 2019-10-10.pdf

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Exhibit DC/04 - 19-10-09 - A Rudakubana - Permanent Exclusion.pdf		
Exhibit DC/05 - 19-10-14 - A Rudakubana - Letter from Clerk.pdf		
Exhibit DC/06 - 19-10-16 - Cover sheet for 19-11-05.pdf		
Exhibit DC/07 - 19-11-05 - AGENDA.pdf		
Exhibit DC/08 - 19-11-05 - Minutes - A Rudakubana.pdf		
Exhibit DC/09 - 19-11-06 - Panel Decision Letter.pdf		
Exhibit DC/10 - A Rudakubana Attendance 2017-18.pdf		
Exhibit DC/11 - A Rudakubana Attendance 2018-19.pdf		
Exhibit DC/12 - A Rudakubana Attendance 2019-20.pdf		
Exhibit DC/13 - AR111219.docx		
Zip folder 2		
Exhibit DC/14 - Permanaent Exclusion Notification 10.10.19.pdf		
Exhibit DC/15 - Range High School Safeguarding Reporting Form 08.10.19.docx		
Exhibit DC/16 - Incident 2019-10-08 (Record of Concern) - Range High.pdf		
Exhibit DC/17 - DPA Statement - not dated - Range High School.pdf		
Exhibit DC/18 - Pupil Exclusion Notification 2019-10 - Range High.pdf		
Exhibit DC/19 - Yr 7 Report - Range High School.pdf		
Exhibit DC/20 - Yr 8 Report - Range High School.pdf		
Exhibit DC/21 - Email - PC McNamee to Range High School re. Childline.pdf		
Exhibit DC/22 - Axel Rudakubana 1.jpg		

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Exhibit DC/23 - Axel Rudakubana2.jpg	
Exhibit DC/24 - Axel Rudakubana House log (1).xlsx	
Exhibit DC/25 - Fwd Axel Rudakubana.msg	
Exhibit DC/26 - Fwd_Axel Rudakubana.pdf Signature	
Statement taken by (print name)	DC 2968 MOULT
Station	Operational Command Centre, Speke, Liverpool
Date, time statement taken	17/09/2024

