# Former Healing Academy teacher permanently banned for sexually inappropriate conduct with pupils



Cheyne Phillips, a 34-year-old former PE teacher from Healing Academy, has been permanently barred from teaching following a ruling by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA). The decision stems from a detailed investigation that revealed he engaged in sexually inappropriate behaviour with students, including sending sexually suggestive messages and having sexual relations with at least one pupil. The tribunal emphasised that Phillips' actions amounted to severe breaches of professional standards, underscoring the need for stringent guidelines to protect students from misconduct.

Evidence presented during the hearings included disturbing messages that Phillips allegedly sent, such as one which provocatively stated, “Times ticking baby cakes [emoji] u either want ur eyes to water or you don't [emoji].” This was not an isolated incident. Other messages requested explicit photographs from students, highlighting a systemic issue with his professional conduct. The TRA panel found such behaviour deeply concerning, noting the significant emotional and psychological harm caused to the pupils involved. The evidence suggested a troubling pattern of sexual motivation behind his interactions with students, marking a clear violation of the duty of care educators have towards their pupils.

The Harbour Learning Trust, which managed Healing Academy, asserted their commitment to student safety during a proactive inquiry process and stated they acted promptly to terminate Phillips' employment once the allegations came to light. This commitment to safeguarding stands in stark contrast to the actions of some other educators who have faced similar allegations. For instance, Robin Kyne, a teacher at Regent College in Leicester, was banned after initiating a sexual relationship with a former pupil, coupled with pressure for drug-related activity. These incidents reveal a pervasive issue within the educational sector, where inappropriate relationships between teachers and pupils have occurred with alarming frequency.

Research from the National Education Union indicates that sexually motivated misconduct accounts for approximately a third of all teaching bans in England over the past five years. Such studies highlight the scale of this issue within the profession: more than half of all sanction cases related to inappropriate conduct had a sexual dimension. Comparatively, the 500,000 teachers serving in the UK suggest that while the number of bans is relatively small, the incidents themselves profoundly impact students and the integrity of the teaching profession.

Another noted case is that of Neil Giffin, who gained notoriety as a teacher on 'Educating Yorkshire'. He was banned for life after admitting to sexual relationships with two former pupils. Giffin's case provides a sobering parallel to Phillips', demonstrating that the consequences of educator misconduct extend beyond professional repercussions; they deeply affect the lives of the students involved. This suggests an urgent need for more robust measures and reforms within educational institutions to prevent such incidents in the future.

In light of these troubling revelations, educational authorities continue to face mounting pressure to ensure that teachers adhere strictly to ethical standards that protect students. The mantra of prioritising student safety must remain central to teacher training and regulatory processes. As Cheyne Phillips' case demonstrates, the repercussions of ignoring these standards can have lasting effects, underscoring the crucial responsibility borne by educators.

The ban on Phillips is indefinite unless he chooses to appeal, a move he has so far declined, expressing no intention to return to the profession. As the educational landscape grapples with these challenges, the necessity for vigilance and accountability has never been clearer.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062266/teacher-barred-inappropriate-relations-students), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-44643267)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062266/teacher-barred-inappropriate-relations-students), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-63826950), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-30921051)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-44643267), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ck7lll1np2xo)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-30921051), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11362047/Educating-Yorkshire-teacher-had-sex-with-former-pupils.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/08/29/hundreds-former-pupils-sexually-harassed-by-teachers-study/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062266/teacher-barred-inappropriate-relations-students)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062266/teacher-barred-inappropriate-relations-students> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-63826950> - Robin Kyne, a married teacher from Regent College in Leicester, was banned from the profession after engaging in a sexual relationship with a former pupil shortly after she left college. The Teaching Regulation Agency found that his conduct breached several teachers' standards, including sending increasingly sexual messages to the pupil and pressuring her to buy drugs for him. The panel concluded that his actions amounted to both unacceptable professional conduct and conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-63826950?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-30921051> - Neil Giffin, a teacher featured in the Channel 4 documentary 'Educating Yorkshire', was banned from teaching after having sexual relationships with two former pupils. He admitted to the relationships, which occurred after the pupils had left school, and sent inappropriate messages to other former pupils. The panel found his actions to be sexually motivated and a clear breach of professional conduct. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-30921051?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11362047/Educating-Yorkshire-teacher-had-sex-with-former-pupils.html> - Neil Giffin, 35, a teacher from Thornhill Community Academy near Dewsbury, was banned from teaching for life after having sexual relationships with two former pupils. He contacted them using false names on social media sites and admitted to the relationships, which occurred after the pupils had left school. The panel found his actions to be sexually motivated and a clear breach of professional conduct. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11362047/Educating-Yorkshire-teacher-had-sex-with-former-pupils.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-44643267> - A BBC analysis found that sexually motivated, inappropriate conduct was the reason for a third of teaching bans in England over a five-year period. The study revealed that more than half of all bans following misconduct hearings were due to inappropriate conduct, with a third of cases having a sexual element. The National Education Union stated that the number of bans was 'tiny' compared to the 500,000 teachers in schools. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-44643267?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ck7lll1np2xo> - Paul Christensen, 72, a former PE teacher at Churchdown School Academy in Gloucestershire, was permanently banned from teaching after a panel concluded he sexually abused two pupils between 1977 and 1984. The panel found that he touched the genitals of one pupil and coerced another into sexual activity. Christensen denied the allegations, but the panel determined his conduct amounted to both unacceptable professional conduct and conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ck7lll1np2xo?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/08/29/hundreds-former-pupils-sexually-harassed-by-teachers-study/> - A survey led by the University of Greenwich revealed that hundreds of former pupils in the UK and Ireland have claimed they were sexually harassed by teachers. The study found that 72% of UK respondents and 85% of Irish respondents reported experiencing sexual harassment, including teachers making offensive remarks about students' physical appearance or sexual activity, and attempts to discuss sexual matters with students. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/08/29/hundreds-former-pupils-sexually-harassed-by-teachers-study/?utm_source=openai))