Police drop year-long investigation costing thousands of pounds after schoolgirl who claimed she had been violently raped admits lying

Girl, 13, told police she had been dragged into alleyway in Sussex
She said it happened weeks before so her injuries had healed
Police issued e-fit of suspect and launched major investigation
Today statement released saying she 'revealed her account to be untrue'

A year-long police investigation costing tens of thousands of pounds has been called off after a 13-year-old girl admitted to making up allegations she had been violently raped.

The teenager convinced Sussex Police she was sexually assaulted in a vicious attack in an alleyway in Tilgate, West Sussex.

She claimed she was approached by a stranger who then grabbed and dragged her into nearby bushes before raping her.
The unnamed girl said the attack had happened three weeks before she reported it - meaning her injuries had healed.

Police spent thousands of pounds on the following investigation, an even issued an e-fit of the suspect she described.

But the force says it has now dropped the investigation after the girl admitted the entire incident had been made up.

Sussex Police launched a major investigation and even issued an e-fit based on the suspect she described

A Sussex Police spokesperson confirmed the rape case had been dropped because they had exhausted every line of enquiry and the girl 'revealed her account to be untrue'.

But they say she will not face charges of wasting police time following the false allegation last May.

Girl, 13, who said she had been raped in Tilgate tells police incident never happened

By Crawley News  |  Posted: March 11, 2014

NO RAPE: The e-fit compiled at the time of the allegation

Police have revealed that a 13-year-old girl who claimed she had been raped in a Tilgate alleyway has since changed her story and said the attack never happened.