

Press Release

For Immediate Release

28 June 2022

SUCCESSFUL PARENTS OF JUDICIAL REVIEW SEEKING TO BAN NEW RELATIONSHIP & SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS FACE NEW BUREAUCRACY!

PARENTS seeking to ban the Welsh Government's controversial Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) whole-school curriculum, starting this September, are facing administrative bureaucracy.

Despite In May, a High Court declared the Government's plans involve "*the consideration of complex constitutional matters with potentially very significant consequences for both parents and children*"; Court administrators in Cardiff have decided to delay scheduling the case till after the start of the new academic year. Further, the London-based Queen's Counsel instructed by the Government is not available till early November!

In view of the High Court Judge's deep concerns over the proposals, claimants representing some 5,000 concerned parents across Wales have written to the Welsh Government with two demands:

- a) their agreement not to implement the new RSE curriculum until after the High Court Judicial Review has been heard and decided, or
- b) to proceed with the proposals, but until Judgement has been made, to maintain the time-honoured right for parents to withdraw their child from RSE lessons, and other school events, such as Collective Worship where the RSE syllabus might be featured.

Kim Isherwood, a parent of two boys aged 13-17 from Port Talbot, and one of the Claimants, said: "We believe the Welsh Government should respect any Order of the High Court, and should not seek to prejudge the outcome of any decision. We have therefore written to the Government to obey the 'spirit' of the Judgment handed down by Mr Justice Turner until the Judicial Review decision is known.

"Further, there are hundreds of barristers in England and Wales, and for the Government to hold up democracy in order for one particular barrister to oversee their case is simply wrong. Parents demand Ministers tell the legal department to instruct another barrister so that the Judicial Review can proceed without delay. This is the sort of beurocracy which makes the electorate mad, and Ministers should put it right immediately.

"It is also clear that administrators in Cardiff have not taken on board the seriousness of the issues concerend, and should urgently seek dates from both parties for July or August – ahead of the start of term. This is about our children and their futures."

In April, parents sought a Judicial Review to remove RSE from the 'mandatory element' of the The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 which starts this September, after years of campaigning and petitioning the Government, but being ignored. The RSE proposals includes sex education down to age three, the denial of parental withdraw, and the promotion of Trans Ideology,

On May 27, Mr Justice Turner sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice granted the parents' request. In his ruling he said: "*The issues raised on behalf of the claimants involve the consideration of complex constitutional matters with potentially very significant consequences for both parents and children.*

The response of the defendants, although not without force, is not so obviously determinative of the issues as to justify the refusal of permission."

Campaigners, including parents of gay and lesbian children, and Trans-parents, stress they are not against safeguarding or age-appropriate biology being taught. They also fully support minority rights in terms of welfare and freedom of choice.

Parents have instructed leading Human Rights Barrister Paul Diamond to spearhead the Judicial Review. He will argue that the case raises very important legal issues, including the human rights of very young children from the imposition of ideologies that are transient, and culturally variable.

At present, parents are crowdfunding to raise an estimated £100,000 legal fees. Parents and members of the public wishing to contribute should visit www.publicchildprotectionwales.org

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For further information/interview:

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Editor's Notes:-

Public Child Protection Wales (<https://www.publicchildprotectionwales.org>) exists to promote and create a culture in Wales in which all children are valued, safe, and reach their very best potential.

- We do that by providing a voice for children, and a voice for parents.
- We are a parent-led charitable group, concerned at the way national and local Governments have often failed children in terms of safeguarding and education. We seek to work positively and creatively with both, promoting a responsible and shared partnership between schools and parents, and between parents and our elected representatives at all levels.
- We seek the highest standards in Safeguarding our children and will raise awareness of exploitation and abuse, as necessary. To that end, we fight for Compulsory Sexual Safeguarding of Children and Compulsory in-depth CSA, CSE and HSB training for all working with children and vulnerable people.
- We are non-Party Political, and our parents represent the breadth of society in Wales. Our parents come from all genders, sexual orientations and religious – all three of which we respect and value.