

HIGH COURT RULES IN FAVOUR OF WELSH GOVERNMENT'S COMPULSORY LGBTQ+ TEACHING FOR 3-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN

The High Court has ruled today that the Welsh Government's controversial plans to force LGBTQ+ teaching on all children from the age of 3 upwards is lawful and does not conflict with parental rights.

In a lengthy and comprehensive judgment handed down this afternoon (Thursday 22nd December 2022) Mrs Justice Steyn rejected the judicial review by concerned parents against the Welsh Government's radical power grab which will force all children in Wales from the age of 3 to be subjected to the new Relationships and Sexuality Education curriculum which includes compulsory and explicit sexuality and LGBTQ+ teaching. For the first time the parental right to withdraw their children from explicit sex education classes had been removed from the law.

The controversial proposals, which were opposed by 90% of parents in the Welsh Government's consultation, is to be subject to a "whole school approach" whereby themes of sexuality and LGBTQ+ are to permeate the whole curriculum.

The concerned parents argued that this new curriculum exposes their children to serious dangers and that the common law protected parental rights to opt their children out of classes which they considered entirely inappropriate and conflicted with their religious and philosophical beliefs. This is the first time the courts have had to rule directly on this important question but Mrs Justice Steyn held that:

"the case law and texts relied upon by the claimants do not support the existence of a fundamental common law right of excusal. I reject the contention that such a right exists."

Further, she found that Article 2 of the First Protocol to the European Convention of Human Rights, which obliges the state to respect the right of parents "to ensure such education and teaching [is] in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions", did not protect parental rights in the field of controversial sex education.

Parents gathered outside the high court last month as five claimants connected to the campaign group, Public Child Protection Wales, challenged the Welsh Government on what they claimed was an extremely unbalanced, woke curriculum, based on unethical and highly controversial ideologies such as gender theory and queer theory.

Some schools across Wales are embracing elements of this new curriculum already and reports of children as young as four being told they can "be born in the wrong body". Concerns are rising daily with reports of children coming home confused and upset, some parents claim their children have been "traumatised by images of naked bodies".

Kim Isherwood, one of the claimants and the spokesperson for the campaign said:

"We asked the High Court to recognise the overreach of power by the government, we asked the court to help us protect our children from future emotional, physical, and psychological harm. The evidence we provided to the court referenced and highlighted concerning levels of betrayal, deceit and false claims made by the government, but it appears as though the judge agrees with

them - not only do we parents not have rights, but they were never there to begin with. The team is preparing the appeal, the higher the court the louder the message. This is not a loss; this is another level of exposure. We look forward to another court hearing in the coming weeks where we will fight all the harder to protect our children from a dangerous woke agenda gone off the rails.

Lucia Thomas co-founder of Public Child Protection Wales and spokesperson for the campaign “My main concern is Justice Steyn quoting Professor Emma Renold and the support of her work on this RSE curriculum. Emma Renold references her own work and has a deep-rooted belief that childhood and childhood innocence is a myth. We look forward to another day in court”

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