

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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HIGH COURT JUDGE GRANTS WELSH PARENTS' JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CONTROVERSIAL RELATIONSHIP & SEX EDUCATION ROLL-OUT

A HIGH COURT judge has granted Welsh parents a unique opportunity to Judicial Review the Welsh Government's controversial decision to rollout Relationship and Sex Education across the 'whole school' in Wales. The RSE curriculum includes sex education down to age three, the denial of parental involvement, including the withdraw of their child from RSE lessons, and the promotion of Trans Ideology,

In April, claimants representing over 5,000 concerned parents and grandparents lodged papers with the High Court, after years of campaigning to remove Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) from the 'mandatory element' of the The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021, which starts this September.

Parents believe the mandatory teaching will mean very young children will be introduced to sensitive and inappropriate topics such as gender ideology, and that they will be disenfranchised by being denied their time-honoured right to remove their child from sex education.

Mr Justice Turner, sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice on 27 May granted the parents' request, which must now be heard ahead of the September start of term. In his ruling, Justice Turner 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.

Kim Isherwood, a parent of two boys aged 13-17, from Port Talbot, and one of the Claimants said: *"After years of being ignored, we are delighted that the judge has recognised the seriousness of the proposed changes, the withdraw of time-honoured parental rights and, that the RSE programme, as it stands, could have significant consequences on children's mental and physical health."*

"In one swoop, the Government has broken the vital partnership between parents and schools by, for the first time, creating a political wedge between us. Children should not be used for political ideological experiments in relation to identity and sexuality. It is tantamount to institutionalised abuse, asked to be delivered by teachers who choose a vocation to teach every child as an individual, with respect and dignity, and not to force any ideology on them. School is a place to learn about vital biology, how to develop relationships (with both sexes) and to develop respect. But, as parents, we believe what is happening here is the sexualisation of children, not the education of children. This is a social engineering experiment which must be stopped."

Mrs Isherwood said that the group which she heads, Public Child Protection Wales, is already hearing reports of schools trailing some of the new resources, ahead of schedule. In one report, two, six-year old girls were holding hands in a school playground. They were told by an elderly lady that *'you two are good girls looking after each other'*, whereupon the two girls responded, *'we are lesbians, and our teacher said that it was ok'*.

In another school, some teenagers at the height of hormonal fluctuation were told they should 'explore' whether they are Transgender, simply because although a female by sex, they prefer boys' games and activities. In another school, in a mixed class of 12-year olds, large dildos

were handed out, with students asked to practice rolling down condoms – leaving many of the girls, and some boys, feeling traumatised.

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. Further, the rights of parents, who know their children best, and whether they can be totally excluded from partnerships with teachers.

He will also outline to the court examples of how already, Welsh children are being overtly sexualised by a nationally approved programme, created, he will argue, by the Welsh Government.

The case will be heard in the High Court in Cardiff at a date to be set. At present, PCPW is crowdfunding, and has raised £16,000 towards an estimated £100,000 needed. 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.