

Case No: CX05P00012

IN HAVERFORDWEST COUNTY COURT

Penffynnon
Hawthorn Rise
Haverfordwest
Pembrokeshire
SA61 2AZ

10 – 12 April 2006

BEFORE:

DISTRICT JUDGE GODWIN

BETWEEN:

mother

Claimant

- and -

father

Defendant

APPEARANCES:

For the Claimant:

Counsel Ms Katy Morgan
(Instructed by Messrs Williams and Davies, Cardigan)

For the Defendant:

Counsel Mr David Blake

(Instructed by Messrs Battrick Clark, Bristol)

Transcript of Part of Witness Evidence

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MISS MORGAN: Mr Woodhouse, most recently, in the most recent proceedings, there have been statements put before the court whereby Miss D states that the teacher has informed her that XX is in fact at least two terms and a year behind academically. Are you able to comment upon this in light of the fact that you haven't seen XX?

MR WOODHOUSE: It's difficult to. I understand he was, and is now, in a Welsh medium school. I'm not an expert in Welsh medium schools, although I have worked in a few and seen in some. But I suspect that that would be one good reason because XX does not come from a Welsh speaking family. Therefore I think it must be quite difficult to, even for a bright youngster, to take instruction, if that is what's happening, in Welsh for the majority of the lessons, and therefore I would expect some retardation from that point of view. I don't know what effect it has, but I would say that that had to be taken into account. I think if you come from a Welsh speaking family with everyone speaking or may well be speaking it at home and reinforcing that, that's a very different kettle of fish to going only speaking five hours a day and then coming home into an English medium. I am just talking from the outside here.

MISS MORGAN: Mr Woodhouse, Miss D would state, or would say, that YY, having been home educated from one year, has made considerable progress because she is taught through the medium of English. I would suggest to you that if XX was educated at home through the medium of English, he would also progress significantly.

MR WOODHOUSE: There's a difference of age between the children. I think it's one thing to be educating a six or seven year old, to educate a nine year old at home, and yet another to educate a child who's of secondary school age. I think these are various different phases. I think we can all teach our children to - - intelligent parents can teach our children to read, write and add up and such. It's when you start moving into another age in the curriculum when we may be found to be wanting.

End of part of Witness evidence