

IMMEDIATE

5 May 2004

NASUWT secures £200,000 payout for teacher bullied by governors

A deputy headteacher from a primary school in Coventry has been given an out-of-court settlement of £200,000 after she was bullied by governors.

Diane Bradford, 48, accepted the payout from the Governing Body before her personal injury claim was due to be heard at the High Court on May 17 2004.

Mrs. Bradford, a teacher for 20 years, was suspended along with her headteacher in August 1999 over a dispute between the senior management team and the governors at Our Lady of Assumption RC Primary in Tile Hill.

Although both head and deputy were reinstated days later, neither returned to work due to stress. Mrs. Bradford has since retired on ill-health grounds.

An LEA investigation into the grievances led to the resignation of the Governing Body. The headteacher received an out-of-court settlement in January 2004.

Eamonn O’Kane, General Secretary of NASUWT (the teachers’ union with 223,500 members), said:

“I am pleased that Mrs. Bradford has received some recompense for the trauma she endured. She was right not to suffer in silence and to come to her union for support.

“However, NASUWT prefers prevention to compensation. Every effort must be made to prevent those in authority from abusing those who work for them. Employers must take complaints of bullying seriously from the outset in order to prevent the loss of valuable teachers to the profession.”

Diane Bradford said:

“This experience has knocked my confidence and self-esteem to the point that even after this incident, I felt unable to return to teaching despite taking jobs in two different schools.

“I feel like I’ve lost an awful lot because from being a teenager I wanted to be a teacher. It took me a long time to make the decision that I didn’t want to go back.

“Now I have to look to the future and be positive. I urge anyone in a similar situation to contact their union representative. I’d like to thank NASUWT for their support over the past five years.”

ENDS

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