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[Site Extras](#)
[Dating](#)
[Weather](#)
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[Submit a Story](#)
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[Set as Homepage](#)
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[Privacy Policy](#)
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## School bosses caned

12 July 2007

A TEACHER who was humiliated at the gates of a Christian school and assaulted by a pregnant staff member was forced out of his job, an employment tribunal said.

William McGovern, of Stamford Brook, Hammersmith, resigned from his job at Cardinal Hinsley Roman Catholic High School in Harlesden Road, Harlesden, after suffering months of torment by senior staff members.

The Information and Communcation Technology (ICT) teacher was subjected to a series of disciplinary meetings with Geraldine Freear, the executive head of the school.

The meetings were often in breach of contract, the tribunal ruled.

The problems began when Mr McGovern was accused of being late for classes and missing meetings despite suffering from a bad knee, for which he was due to have an operation.

Soon after, two members of staff accused him of stealing.

One pregnant staff member pushed him in a way the tribunal described as 'inappropriate.'

The final straw came when he was suspended at the front gates of the school that could have been in view of passing students and staff instead of a formal meeting inside the building.

The tribunal ruled that this caused him to feel humiliated.

The tribunal blasted the school as 'not just inept but totally inappropriate and unprofessional' in its handling of the case and concluded that Mr McGovern was poorly treated.

It said: 'The tribunal has no doubt in coming to the conclusion that this Claimant has been constructively unfairly dismissed.'

Mr McGovern said: "The staff at Cardinal Hinsley are a great group of individuals who supported me through a very difficult two years.

"I am appalled that the management of the school were so unchristian and railroaded me out of my job.

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

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"During this whole process both my family and myself have endured enormous anguish and distress and my health has suffered."

Both Mrs Freear and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster refused to comment.

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