

Teacher attacked by pupil awarded £190,000

A teacher who was attacked by a dangerous teenage pupil at a special school won £190,000 damages in the High Court. The judge ruled that the London Borough of Newham was negligent for not revealing the need for fuller restraint of the pupil.

Judith Waugh was talking to her head teacher when the 14-year-old boy gouged her face with his nails.

After the 1998 assault at the John F Kennedy special school in Stratford, East London, she suffered severe psychiatric problems and took early retirement.

Miss Waugh, 53, from Essex, told Mr Justice Cooke that although her injuries had healed, she still needs intensive stress therapy.

Her attacker, who can be identified only as D, was known to suffer from severe behavioural problems.

The judge ruled that the London Borough of Newham, which denied liability, was negligent for not revealing the need for fuller restraint of the pupil.

Reported in The Daily Mail 27 March 2002.