Media Statement in response to teachers humiliation of daytime wetting school girl

A disabled four-year-old girl was forced to clean up her own urine in front of her classmates after wetting herself.

Liberty Rose Finn overcame a brain tumor, but the illness left her with disabilities which often result in her wetting herself. After an accident in the classroom at Church Gresley Infant and Nursery School, in Swadlincote, south Derbyshire, Liberty was humiliated by her teacher and made to clean up in front of the class before being ordered her to stand facing a wall for 10 minutes as punishment.

Natasha Collins-Daniel of ERIC's Bog Standard campaign said; "This is a particularly shocking case as Liberty has ongoing continence problems that the school should have been sensitive to. But unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. Comments from pupils on ERIC's Bog Standard website (http://www.bog-standard.org/display_messages_02.aspx?type=Student&id=13) show that pupils as old as 17 are frequently subjected to humiliation in school as a result of wetting themselves."

"There are many reasons why wetting accidents might happen in class but we a contributing factor is pupils being denied access to toilets when they need to go. Access to a toilet is a basic right and restrictions on when pupils can go is unfair and unacceptable - most adults wouldn't put up with being told 'you should have gone at lunchtime'. Concerned pupils, parents or schools should visit www.bog-standard.org where a suggested school toilet policy and other resources are available."

ERIC's Bog Standard campaign aims to improve the condition of pupils' toilets and to allow pupils to use them when they need to. The campaign is currently petitioning for the government to create minimum standards for toilet facilities in schools. The petition can be signed at http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/bogstandard

More information can be found at www.eric.org.uk and www.bog-standard.org

Ends

For further information or images please contact:
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Notes:

1. ERIC (Education and Resources for Improving Childhood Continence) is a national children's health charity dealing with bedwetting, daytime wetting, constipation and soiling in children and young people. ERIC provides information, support and resources to families and health professionals on bladder and bowel problems.
2. ERIC's Bog Standard campaign aims to improve the standards and access to pupil toilet facilities nationwide. The campaign launched in 2004 at the Houses of Parliament, receiving all-party parliamentary support.

Ways to contact ERIC:

- 24/7 Helpline 0845 370 8008
- Website www.eric.org.uk
- Text 447 624 811 636