

Parents to sue private school over tragedy

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By Matt Withers, Daily Post, North Wales, UK

RELATIVES of Kian Wyn Williams are to sue the North Wales private school where he fell down steps, weeks before his death.

The **three-year-old** suffered brain damage in the playground tragedy at Bangor's exclusive Hillgrove School.

He died more than a month later after contracting the MRSA super-bug as he lay unconscious at Liverpool's Alder Hey children's hospital.

The youngster's parents now plan to take legal action against the school, saying safety checks would have prevented their only son's death.

An inquest last week heard the Spiderman-obsessed child from Bethesda was apparently emulating his superhero when he fell.

The tragedy happened on July 7 last year, the day before pupils broke up for summer.

The inquest jury in Caernarfon returned a unanimous accidental death verdict.

But his parents want to know whether safety precautions should have been in place.

Following Kian's death the Health and Safety Executive ordered the school to put up gates.

Jacqueline and Dafydd Williams want to know whether Hillgrove had ignored previous assessments.

They are also demanding answers over why one teacher was on playground duty for more than 40 children on the breaktime their son was injured.

Family solicitor Catherine Leech said: "We are discussing further action with Kian's parents and it is likely civil proceedings will ensue against the school.

"We were expecting a verdict of accidental death but the inquest has raised many questions we want to take further."

She added the fact only one teacher was on duty for more than 40 children in two playgrounds also concerned the family.

Last night Hillgrove's headteacher James Porter said he was not surprised by the family's decision to sue. He said: "I can understand the family wanting to take it further. In any accident these days people are looking for somebody to blame."

He added the HSE was still investigating and the school was cooperating with them. "We've learnt a lot," he said. The inquest heard Kian was found crying at the base of the steps at playtime by a work experience student.

He was taken to Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor, but was transferred to an intensive care unit at Alder Hey, where he died five weeks later.

mattwithers@dailypost.co.uk