

Scenarios

What would you do?

Scenario one:

It is half an hour after home-time. You are surprised to see Emily in the corridor as she should be attending an after-school football activity in the school grounds that is run by a local charitable organisation. She is crying. You ask her what's upsetting her? Her reply – "I just can't take it anymore. The coach makes me feel so dirty, and he is so clever, no-one else in the group sees him and last time he squeezed so hard it hurt" She stops abruptly, then says: "It's okay, I know you won't believe me, he already told me that" and turns to walk away.

What do you do?

- A** – Reassure Emily and explain that she and her parents need to tell the organiser of the activity as football is not run by the school. Offer to find out the correct name and contact number.
- B** – Reassure Emily and explain what you are going to do next. Inform your Head teacher/Principal immediately and follow your safeguarding allegations procedure. Bring Emily to a safe place in the school and ensure someone she trusts is with her until her parents arrive.
- C** – Reassure Emily, suggest she goes home and explain what you are going to do next. You know it is likely the DSL has gone home for the day. You leave a message explaining what Emily has told you and record your concerns in line with your setting's child protection recording guidance.
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Scenario two:

Lianne is 11. Ever since her mother died a year ago, her behaviour at home has become increasingly challenging. Her father has told the school on more than one occasion that she is 'out of control'. In school, she presents as quiet, occasionally refusing to do what she has been told, often preferring detention to backing down.

You notice that, for the past couple of weeks, Lianne seems happier, and she hasn't been in detention for a while. You ask her about this, and she says that she's enjoying staying with her best friend's family, and that her dad had agreed to let her stay for a few months so he can do some overtime at work.

What do you do?

A – Tell Lianne that you are glad that she is feeling happier and things have improved.

B – Monitor how Lianne gets on and keep an eye on her in school.

C – Advise the DSL they need to make a referral to Children's Social Care.

Scenario three:

Raphael has always been a very likeable lively boy, often getting into scrapes. He is not very good at concentrating on his schoolwork and his attainment is slightly below average. You are aware that his parents are very concerned about this, as he is very different to his brother and sister who are diligent high achievers.

Since last parent's evening, you have noticed a gradual change in Raphael. He has become quieter and seems to be holding himself apart from his friends. He appears to be trying harder with his schoolwork sometimes but is often caught staring into space.

Today, he seems nervous and 'jumpy'. In the corridor, you see him being accidentally jostled by students behind him. You notice him flinch and that he is moving awkwardly. You ask him if he is okay. He visibly tries to stop himself from crying and says you shouldn't come too close as the church hasn't yet managed to purge him. There are reddish brown stains on the back of his shirt.

What do you do?

A – Tell the DSL immediately and record your concerns in line with your setting's child protection recording guidance. The DSL may need to make a referral to Children's Social Care.

B – Monitor how he gets on and keep an eye on him in school, you should be careful of jumping to conclusions.

C – Suggest a meeting with his parents.

Scenario 4

Benny is 7 years old and has a brother about 2 years old. Benny often comes to school a bit grubby and smelly and/or without socks or a jumper. This is not unusual for the children in the area where he lives. Your setting provides him with a PE kit and other equipment, and he attends breakfast club when he arrives early enough.

Today he seems more distracted than usual and starts to cry after being told off for daydreaming. He says that the baby won't drink his bottle and "there's worms in his nappy". You ask him what he means. He stops crying, shakes his head and says he was only joking.

What do you do?

A – Tell him to focus on his work as you are not aware of any new baby in the household and know that Benny has a lively imagination.

B – Monitor him and make a note to remind you to mention it to the DSL - you are concerned that he might be watching unsuitable material online or on TV as you suspect he is not properly supervised at home.

C – Tell the DSL and record your concerns in line with your setting's child protection recording guidance. The DSL may need to make a referral to Children's Social Care.