

Scenarios

What would you do?

Scenario one:

You are still in school at 5:15pm and see Alice in the corridor as she has returned from an after-school sports event. She is crying. You ask Alice what's upsetting her? Her reply – 'I just can't take it anymore. I don't want to go home because I know my stepdad will be there. He grabbed me last night when we had an argument and I'm scared of him. He always does this.' Alice shows you some bruising on her forearm.

You phone the DSL but get the answer machine. You know it is likely the DSL has gone home for the day. You leave a message explaining what Alice has told you and log your concerns on CPOMS.

What do you do?

A - No further action required. You have raised your concerns with the DSL, and they will pick it up tomorrow and know what to do.

B - Try to find another senior member of staff for them to deal with the situation.

C - Ask Alice to remain in school as you need to make sure she is safe. Contact the police and make a referral to Children's Social Care.

Scenario two:

Connor is aged 16. He has social, emotional and mental health difficulties and is being supported by an individual support plan in school. He has a difficult relationship with his mum, whom he lives with. His dad works in Qatar, so he doesn't see him often.

Connor tells you last night he and his mum had a big argument and she told him to go and live with his 'auntie'. He explains that she isn't his real auntie but has known her since he was a child and has a close relationship with her. He says he feels happier there.

What do you do?

A – Tell Connor that he can talk to you about how he is feeling anytime. Based on what Connor has said, he is probably better staying at his auntie’s house for a while to help things calm down between him and mum. You can monitor how he gets on and will keep an eye on him in school.

B – Tell the DSL immediately and record. The DSL will need to make a referral to Children’s Social Care.

Scenario three:

Jasmine is aged 10. You know she has reported to school staff that she is being bullied by girls in her class. This has been raised with the Head and a plan has been put in place to keep Jasmine safe. This includes her having a separate room to eat her lunch in, ‘helping out’ with the younger children on their playground at playtimes and being moved away from the girls she reports to be bullying her in class.

Jasmine has come to you upset at lunchtime. She tells you that the girls have called her a ‘fat pig’ and spat in her food at lunchtime. You ask Jasmine why she wasn’t in the separate room she has been allocated and she tells you because she felt lonely in there.

What do you do?

A – Isolate the girls accused of bullying Jasmine and refer them to the Head for a behavioural sanction in line with school’s policy.

B – Remind Jasmine that the plan for her to be somewhere different was put in place to keep safe and she has a responsibility to stick to this.

C – Both of the above.

Scenario 4

A parents evening appointment with Jermain’s mother is running slightly late. She appears agitated, despite you sharing news of his excellent progress, when you manage to get to her appointment. When asked if she is ok, she replies her

husband is very controlling and has told her this is her last chance, if she's not back on time 'it'll be the last thing she ever does'. She went on to say that last time she was late home he locked her and the children out of the house and they had to sleep in the car.

What do you do?

A – Ask her if she would like to speak with someone else about what she has told you. Go and get the DSL for her to speak to.

B – Finish the appointment so she can leave immediately. Arrange for her to come back into school another time to discuss her concerns.

C – Ask some open questions about where the children are and if she feels in danger? Report your concerns immediately to the DSL. There will need to be immediate action to safeguard the family.