
Head Teachers' Leadership Academy | Scenarios

Heidie's Dilemma

A 17-year-old male has been charged with a sexual assault of a 15-year-old female. The alleged incident happened on a February Saturday night. Both pupils are at your school, in S6 and S4 respectively.

It is midday the Tuesday following the alleged assault and you've had communications from both sets of parents. The girl's parents believe that the male pupil should be excluded from school until the matter is dealt with by the judicial system and they are keeping their daughter at home until what they describe as "our reasonable expectations" are met.

The boy and his parents point out that this is a crucial year for him as he seeks the Highers he needs to meet a conditional offer of a university place. They further point out – forcibly – that he is innocent until proven guilty and would resist any efforts to exclude him with "all legal resources available to us".

In addition, the parents have complained that the boy was subject to taunts and veiled threats by S4 pupils at school the previous day and want guarantees that the school will ensure there is no more verbal abuse, nor any more threats – veiled or otherwise.

What risks have you identified and what strategies will you adopt to mitigate these risks?

