
Head Teachers' Leadership Academy | Scenarios

Sharon Sylvester

Sharon Sylvester has been married for just over two years. She is a popular, extrovert member of staff, always up for a laugh. She is also a very effective English teacher, tipped for promotion in the next few years. She is currently producing and directing a new school production of Annie. It is more than a decade since the school last put on a large-scale production. There is much excitement across the school as the show is less than two weeks from its opening night. It is almost sold out for its four-night run.

A parent has come to see you with a CD of photographs downloaded from a social networking site accessed by a friend of his wife. They appear to be from Ms Sylvester's hen night over two years ago. The photographs are presented tabloid style under the headline Sharon's Night of Shame. The accompanying text indicates that Ms Sylvester's hens had devised 10 dares for her. In one photograph she appears to be drinking a yard of ale. Another is captioned Snog a Stranger with a Beard. The stranger has the look of a man who has just been mugged. Slightly blurred photos from later in the evening show Ms Sylvester with a traffic cone in her head seemingly practising a pole dancing routine with a lamp post. In the final photo she appears to have lost the power of her legs.

The parent has a copy of the General Teaching Council for Scotland Code of Conduct. He is stony faced and believes Ms Sylvester's conduct, as captured in the photographs, makes her unfit to be a teacher of young people. The parent says he will leave the CD with you but assures you he has another copy. His parting shot is that he expects to hear what action you plan to take within five days or he will go to the press.

Over to you...

May open up a discussion on professional standards across other professions. In the real version, the complainer's wife intervened (she didn't know what her husband had done) and the complaint was withdrawn.

