

Scenario

Janine Delaray		mother
“Deano”		relationship unknown
Ben Atkinson	14 years	subject
Jason Atkinson		father

Background

Ben has been with you since Year 7, having transitioned from a local primary school with a group of his friends. Since being in school he has been achieving his expected marks in most areas, although a couple of subjects need some additional work. He has a friendship network within school and seems to be relatively settled. The exception to this was for a period of approximately four months whilst Ben was in Year 8 - Ben was unsettled and it was identified that his parents were separating at this time. Since then things appear to have settled down.

Incident

Over the last couple of weeks it has been noticed that Ben has been relatively tired, has been struggling to concentrate in lessons and is not with his friends as he has been previously. This morning as Ben comes into your lesson, another student says something to him which results in Ben grabbing them and pushing them to the floor with a significant degree of aggression. It takes most of the lesson for him to calm down. When he does, he tells you that there was a lot of shouting last night between his mother and Deano and it sounded as though things were thrown around. This morning he didn't see his mother before leaving home for school.

How should the school handle this concern?