

# Report of Designated Person Manor Way Secondary School

Jermaine Johnson/Wade      Age 13

Jermaine has attended Manor Way Secondary since he was 11 years old. This report is based on discussions with his Form Tutor, conversations I have had with Stella Johnson/Wade and information that Jermaine has provided himself as well as School Records. I have attended three "Team around the Family" meetings.

## Child Development

According to his Form Tutor Jermaine's academic strengths are in maths, geography and art. She believes that he has the ability to do better in these and other subjects at the school if his attendance improved. In the last three months Jermaine attended 75% of school sessions. The average for the school is over 90%. From what Jermaine has told me at times he has to take responsibility for his sisters and he worries about how his mother is coping when he is at school.

I am concerned that Jermaine may not be getting adequate food at home. There have been five reports this term of Jermaine getting into disputes with other children when he has wanted some of their food, despite the fact that he receives free school meals.

The Form Tutor has indicated that Jermaine's clothes are usually grubby and smelly and there have been three episodes of bullying this term when others have taunted him about this. This has come to light because on each occasion Jermaine has become very angry and attempted to hit the person concerned. The Form Tutor has also received complaints from other pupils who do not want to work with Jermaine or sit next to him because of his lack of personal hygiene.

I have discussed the above issues with Stella Johnson/Wade and she has told me she wants Jermaine to go to school but sometimes he refuses and then she does not know what to do. She has denied that he lacks food at home. She did not seem concerned about his personal presentation and she put the ensuing fights down to "boys being boys". I have tried to discuss the same issues with Tony Johnson /Wade over the phone but unfortunately he told me it was none of my business and refused to speak further.

## Parenting Capacity

I have not met Tony Johnson/Wade despite inviting him to the meetings that I have had with Stella Johnson/Wade. My impression of Stella is that she means well but she seems low in mood and not hopeful of making changes in Jermaine's circumstances. From Jermaine's presentation and poor school attendance I would say that his parents are struggling to provide an adequate level of basic care and the necessary guidance and boundaries.

## **Family and Environmental Factors**

I do not have much information about the family's wider family and social network. However, I understand from Jerome that he gets on well with his maternal grandmother and that she has moved in pending this Case Conference. It has been noticeable in that short time that Jermaine has come in each day for school and his personal presentation has been much improved.

## **Conclusion**

We have been part of the Team around the Family that has attempted to work with the Johnson/Wade family and make the necessary changes. The risks are that, if nothing happens, then Jermaine's health, social and educational development will continue to suffer and I am concerned this could give him further reason to disengage from school.

From the school's perspective the areas most needing to change are as follows:

- 1) Jermaine needs to be provided with breakfast by his parents before he comes into school **or** to attend the breakfast club five days a week
- 2) Stella Wade to ensure that Jermaine has regular showers/baths and that he presents in clean clothes so that he can feel good about himself, engage fully in school life and in order to reduce the risk of bullying and social isolation.
- 3) Stella Wade to be able to care for Jacky and Rosa without help from Jermaine and to ensure Jermaine is attending school.

**In the Conference ask the Advocate for Jermaine whether s/he thinks that Jermaine needs to be on a Child Protection Plan. This is so that the Advocate can explain that it is not part of the role to comment on this.**