

Hamill, Julie

From: Alphonse Rudakubana [DPA]
Sent: 02 March 2020 21:34
To: Jameson, Anna; Hamill, Julie; Laetitia Muzayire
Subject: Axel Rudakubana

Dear Anna,

I understand that you are going to meet the Acorns School this week.

As parents, we are concerned that Axel has not been taught for over two months now and we don't know how long this will continue to go on.

It is important that we are frank with all involved in order to do what's best for him. Therefore, please let the school know about the following:

1. Axel has struggled doing his school homework, he says that the work is boring or irrelevant or too easy. Our observation is that he needs a school/Council provided tutor at home or at a designated centre whilst he awaits to go back to school. This is really urgent because he has to be educated by law but he is falling through the cracks.

2. We feel Acorns school is not suitable for Axel's learning and thriving in the medium and long term because:

2.1. Acorns focuses on behaviour rather than teaching and preparing him to achieve his potential in GCSE's.

2.2. Axel says he has not learnt anything new whilst at Acorns. And there have been disruptions in classrooms by a student especially when he was with a previous group.

2.3. The practice of recording students' behaviours all the time has caused Axel to feel paranoid and insecure and wanting to know what is written or said about him.

2.4. We feel the fighting incident at Acorns was preventable because there is an adult supervising the pupils at all times. However, it is difficult to keep away from aggressive environment at Acorns and Axel has come to Acorn being a victim of bullying in the first place.

2.5. We believe that environment at Acorns and resulting frustrations have contributed to Axel returning to Range High to find the student who had bullied him. Axel went back to Range only a few days after getting involved in the fight with a student at Acorns.

2.6. His mood was worsening than the school day before at Acorns. He was becoming unhappier as days progressed and we are concerned that this trend will continue when he returns and no changes are made.

Suggestions:

1. Acorns should be a transit stay for Axel for a short term if he is to return there.

2. The focus has to shift more to teaching him and nurturing him academically.

3. If Axel is going to remain at home one more day than he has been, we would like to request Acorns as his current school to provide him with focused tutoring at home or at a designated centre. If there is free

tutoring within Lancashire area, we would be grateful if Acorns could apply for it for Axel (as a temporary measure).

4. Axel is academically bright with a Teaching Assistant's help. Vocational subjects don't interest him. He told us about when there was a project of setting up a cleaning business during a computer science lesson. Of all businesses, Axel said that cleaning is not what he would like to do. Axel should attend a school that teaches academic subjects mainly and with higher aspirations.

5. Axel is a good boy, modest and respectful. He is not a risk to himself or to others. It has taken persistent taunting and bullying from a group of young peoples to get the worst out of him at Range High School. He now understands more the consequences of the actions he took and if it was possible to go back in time, he admits he would not do what he did. We, the parents, believe that he is on spectrum and having therapy and his own TA would improve his response to similar situations in the future.

6. With a TA with him in the classroom and and nearby during other times, Axel shall flourish in the mainstream school because of the following:

6.1. We strongly feel that Axel has autism which adversely affects his learning, quality of school work, temper when annoyed, nervousness when within a group of people, etc.

6.2. Axel is bright and able but has low concentration/attention levels and can give up easily, or rush school work incomplete and talk when he should not. He can get himself into trouble by talking back without thinking it through. All of this results in him having low confidence.

6.3. Axel does not like sporting activities and prefers to chat with others. He dislikes rough playing a lot. He loves to respectfully chat with others. He can take banter and name calling and he understands when somebody is not being mean. However, when someone dislikes him, he can notice it and is not afraid to retaliate. We believe that therapy and his own TA would help with learning and managing his response to social challenges.

6.4. Axel regrets the wrong decisions he made and understands the consequences thereof. He is unhappy at Acorns and he deserves another chance in the mainstream school with additional help and support.

We hope that our parent perspectives will help all involved to help Axel redress his past mistakes and achieve his potential going forward. We don't mean that Acorns is a bad school, it is rather not suitable for the person Axel is.

Hope that helps.

Kind regards,

Alphonse and Laetitia