Dealing with sensitive issues: As you listen to the drama involving pupil Tunde and his teacher, think about the extent of your professional role as a teacher.

SCENE 1: TITUS’S SCHOOL

SFX: CHILDREN PLAYING. FATI ARRIVES

FATI: Good afternoon o Teacher Kwame.

TEACHER KWAME: Welcome Madam Fati, I don’t remember any PTA meetings today.

FATI: No, there’s no meeting, I just thought I should bring you some oranges and tomatoes...just to show my appreciation of all you are doing for my Munira...it is not easy to teach children...

KWAME: Ah Madam...this is really thoughtful of you...

SFX: CHILDREN FIGHTING OFF. KWAME CALLS THEM.

TEACHER KWAME: Excuse me Madam. Hey! come here the two of you!

SFX: TWO PUPILS ARRIVE, STILL QUARRELLING.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEACHER KWAME:</th>
<th>Shut up! And you Tunde, you are always involved in one fight or the other.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUNDE:</td>
<td>na Essien abuse me first ...</td>
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<td>TEACHER KWAME:</td>
<td>Shut up! Look at how dirty you are. In fact, I will like to see either of your parents here tomorrow.</td>
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<td>TUNDE:</td>
<td>(Timidly) Excuse me sir, my parent will say he don’t have time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEACHER KWAME:</td>
<td>yes, she will never have time, that’s why you come without writing materials and disturb your mates. In fact, go home immediately and bring your mother.</td>
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<td>FATI:</td>
<td>I think you should be gentle with him.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEACHER KWAME:</td>
<td>(Irritably) you don’t know this rascal. He needs iron hands. (To boy) If your mother doesn’t come with you, then stay home with her.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SFX:</td>
<td>BOY LEAVES.</td>
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<td>FATI:</td>
<td>I think I know that boy, KWAME, he looks like...</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEACHER KWAME:</td>
<td>Oh, forget him, he’s a nuisance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FATI:</td>
<td>Anyway, can you come visit someone with me this evening?</td>
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SCENE 2: LUKEMAN’S HOUSE

FATI: Hello Mrs Lukeman, good evening. This is KWAME, the new teacher at the school.

LUKEMAN: Oh, so this is the new teacher, I don hear of him. Wetin be the problem? Talk quick as I am busy working.

TEACHER KWAME: Good evening.

LUKEMAN: I say what is the problem? I busy o!

FATI: Mrs Lukeman it is about your son Tunde.

LUKEMAN: What about Tunde?

FATI: I have come to advise you to take interest in his education and well being...

LUKEMAN: What nonsense you dey talk. That small boy...

FATI: Lukeman, answer me this question...if you don’t take care of your child now, when you get old, and you’re no longer strong to work; do you think you have a right to ask for his help?

LUKEMAN: I still don understand this kind of talk?

FATI: Yes, because now you think you are strong,
but a time will come when it is this your son that will take care of you.

LUKEMAN: of course, that is why we send him to school.

FATI: If you leave him to continue the way he is going, he will not be there to take care of you, he may even die before you.

LUKEMAN: ye! God forbid bad thing, my only son, die?

FATI: the only way God can forbid bad things is if you start taking interest in him. Your child today will be your father or mother tomorrow.

LUKEMAN: Ah Madam Fati, I have been a bad mama... o...my life.

FATI: it is better late than never Lukeman...don’t feel so bad....

LUKEMAN I will change...I swear I go take good care of Tunde from today....

KWAME [MUTTERS TO HIMSELF] Wao...it never occurred to me to visit Tunde’s parent...

END

Have you ever visited parents of your pupils? When might you do this and for what purpose?

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