

Problem scenario – boys

Identity and Self-esteem

Joel is 13 years old; his mum's side of the family is from Jamaica and his dad's family is white British. Joel has always had a hard time fitting in with the 'white' kids at school and it has been hard proving himself to the 'black' kids. Joel really wants to be accepted by the 'black' crowd because he loves to rap but he also has some white friends that are not into that sort of thing. Joel's dad doesn't like him going round with 'the black crowd'. He says that they are all criminals and that they don't know how to wear their trousers properly. Joel doesn't know what to do because he just wants to be accepted but he doesn't know where he fits in.

Questions

- ▶ Why do you think Joel is finding his mixed-race status difficult?

- ▶ Do you think he has good reason to feel like this?

- ▶ How would you describe his feelings?

- ▶ What do you think about his dad's response?

- ▶ Why do you think his dad wants him to wear his trousers properly?

- ▶ How does this situation impact on his self-esteem?

- ▶ How could he help himself to solve this problem?

- ▶ Who else could help him and how?



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