An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Bí Cineálta Procedures:

What is Bullying Behaviour?

Bí Cineálta
A Partnership Approach
Board of Management- Staff-Students-Parents

What is Bullying Behaviour?

Bullying is <u>targeted</u> behaviour, online or offline that <u>causes harm</u>. The harm cased can be physical, social and/or emotional in nature. Bullying behaviour is <u>repeated over time</u> and involves an <u>imbalance of power</u> in relationships between two people or groups of people in society.

Once off incidents may be considered bullying in certain circumstances
A single hurtful message posted on social media as there is a likelihood of it being shared

Bí Cineálta Section 2.1

What is not bullying behaviour?

- A once off instance of negative behaviour

- Disagreement between students

- Instances where students don't want to remain friends

- Non-deliberate behaviours of students with special educational needs

Bí Cineálta Section 2.2

Bullying Behaviour Outside of School

Bullying behaviour which occurs outside of school

Schools are not expected to deal with bullying behaviour which occurs outside of school when students are not under the care or responsibility of the school.

School staff should support students who are impacted by bullying behaviour that occurs outside of school.

However, if this bullying behaviour continues into the school environment, schools are required to address the bullying behaviour.

Cyberbullying

Bullying behaviour including cyberbullying behaviour, which has occurred outside of school can often continue in school.

Where a student engages in cyberbullying behaviour when in school, the school must address the bullying behaviour

Where a student experiences cyberbullying behaviour in school, the school must address the bullying behaviour.

In the case of cyberbullying, although the hurtful message may have been sent outside of school hours, the student may view the message while in school. Where this happens, the school must address the bullying behaviour.
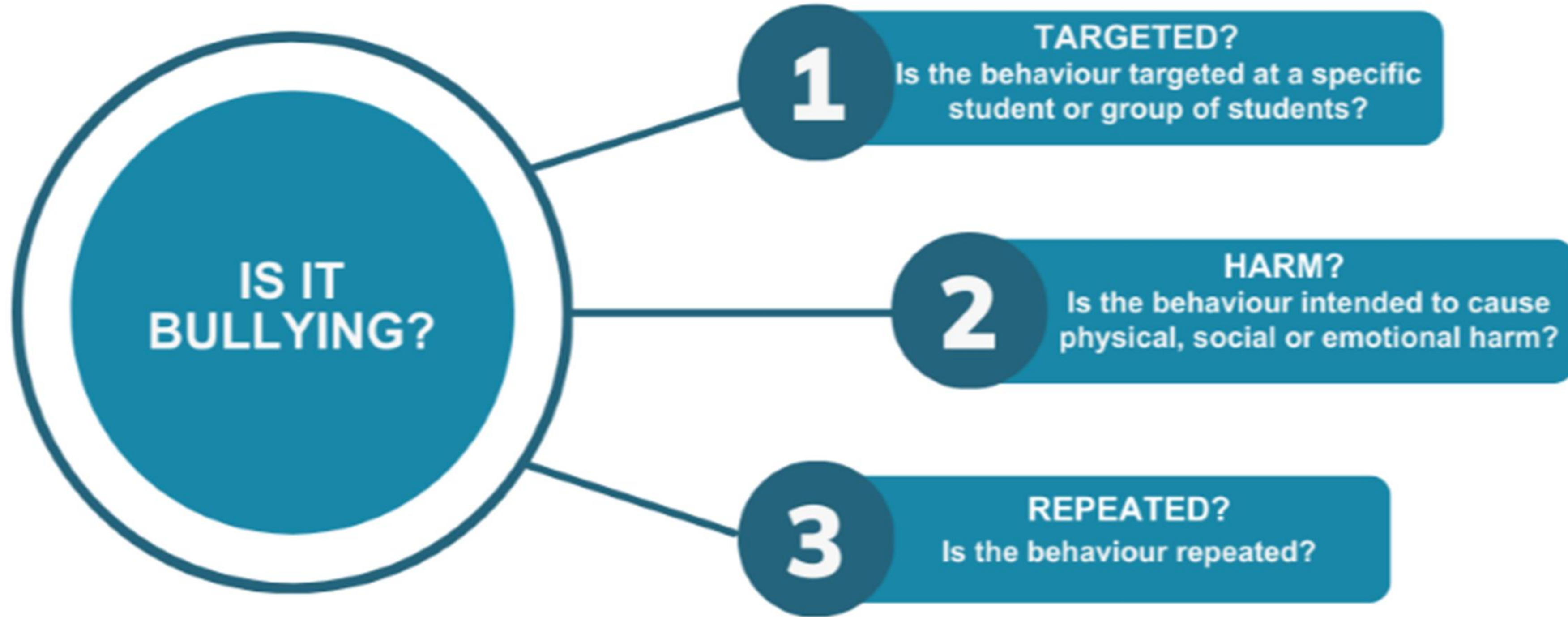
Bullying Behaviour Outside of School

Discussion:

- **How can we support students who experience bullying behaviour outside of school?**

IS IT BULLYING?

1 TARGETED? Is the behaviour targeted at a specific student or group of students?

2 HARM? Is the behaviour intended to cause physical, social or emotional harm?

3 REPEATED? Is the behaviour repeated?

If the answer to each of the questions is **Yes**, then the behaviour is bullying behaviour and the behaviour should be addressed using the Bí Cineálta Procedures.

If the answer to any of the questions is **No**, then the behaviour is not bullying behaviour. Strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour are provided for within the school's Code of Behaviour.

Is it Bullying Behaviour?

Activity:

- Review the scenarios provided.
- Has bullying behaviour occurred?
- Why?
- Why not?
- What type(s) of bullying behaviour has occurred?