

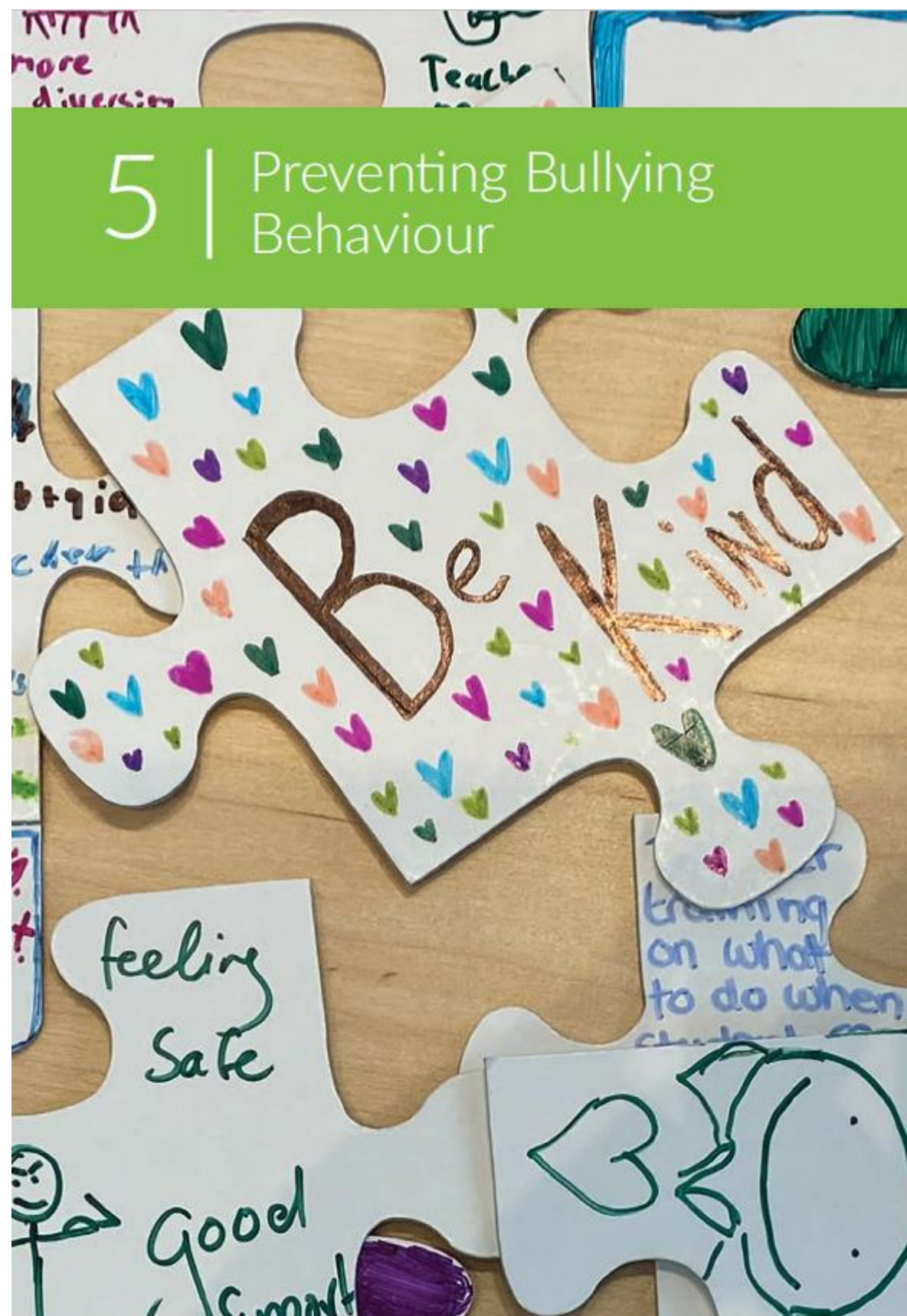


An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Bí Cineálta Procedures:

Preventing & Addressing
Bullying Behaviour

Prevention Strategies



Culture and Environment

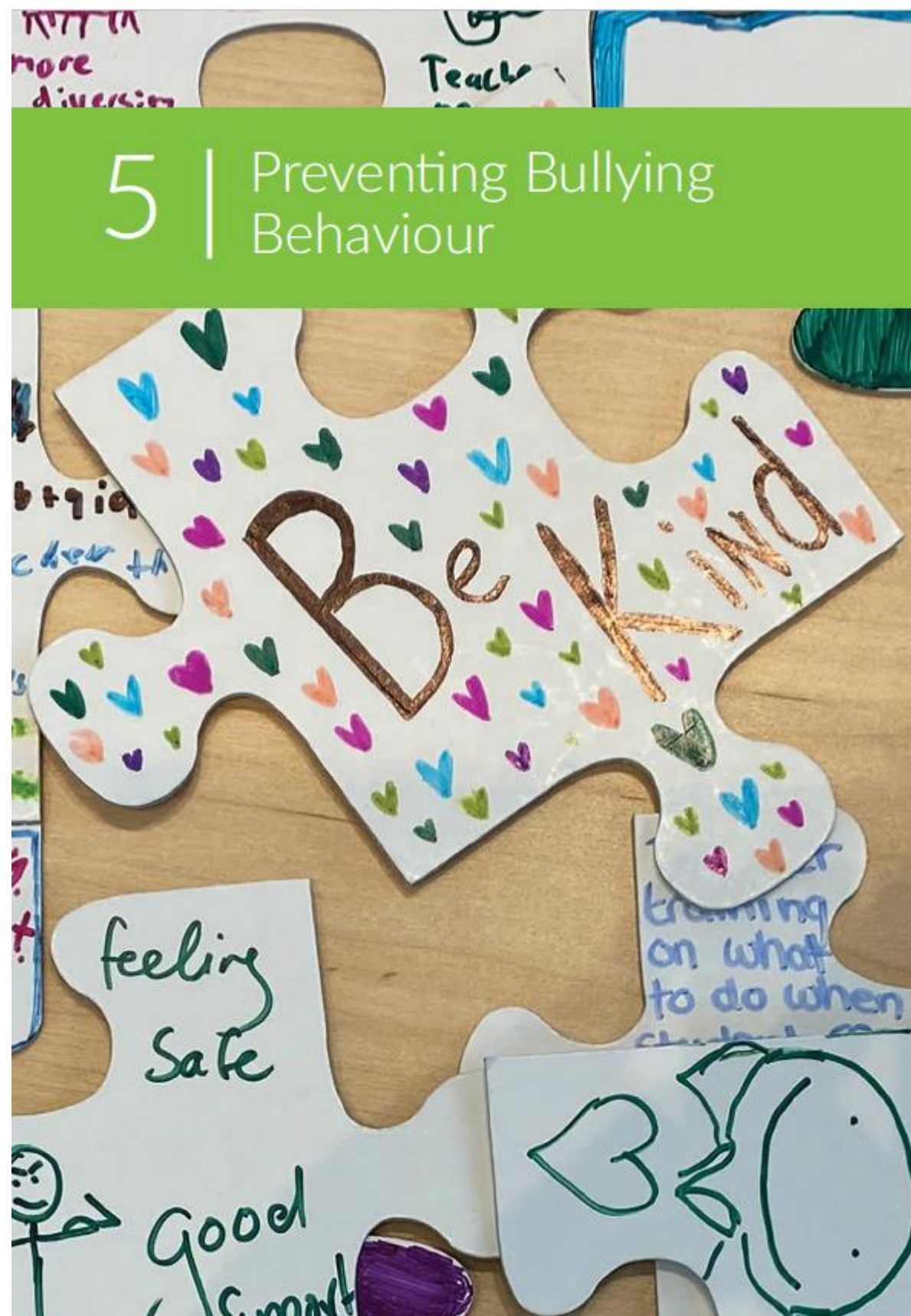
- Do we foster a sense of belonging at school?
- Are there hidden spaces in the school building / school grounds?
- Is lighting adequate?
- Are staff visible during unstructured time?

Curriculum (Teaching and Learning)

- Do our curricular and extra-curricular activities promote inclusion and respect?
- Can pupils work in small groups with their peers to promote respectful collaboration?



Prevention Strategies



Policy and Planning

- **How can other school policies support Bí Cineálta?**
- **Can we engage in professional learning to support measures to prevent & address bullying behaviour?**

Relationships and Partnerships

- **Strong interpersonal relationships are key**
- **Can we support/provide activities that build empathy, respect and resilience?**
- **How can we support student participation in school life?**

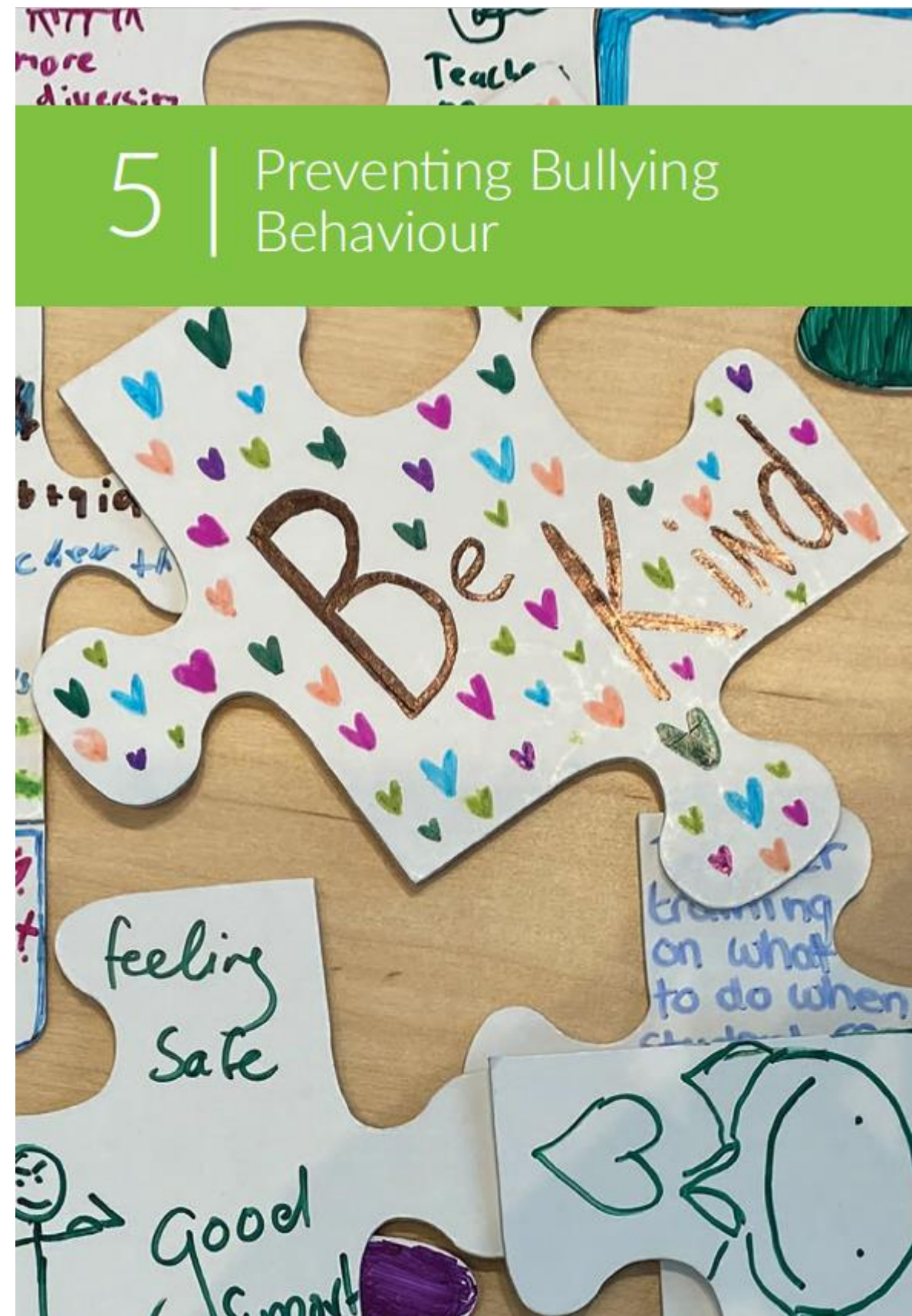


Prevention Strategies



Strategies to prevent:

- **Cyberbullying behaviour**
- **Homophobic bullying behaviour**
- **Racist bullying behaviour**
- **Sexist bullying behaviour**
- **Sexual harassment**



Our Prevention Strategies

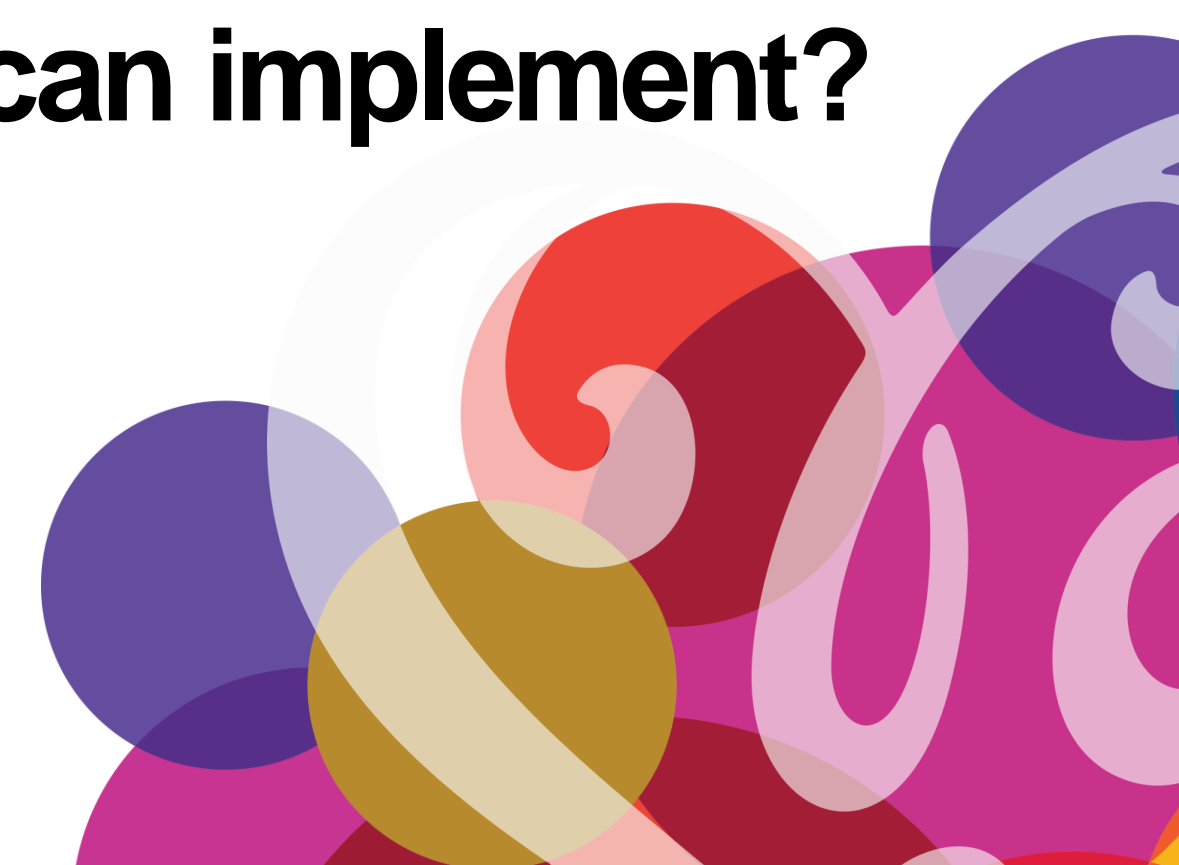
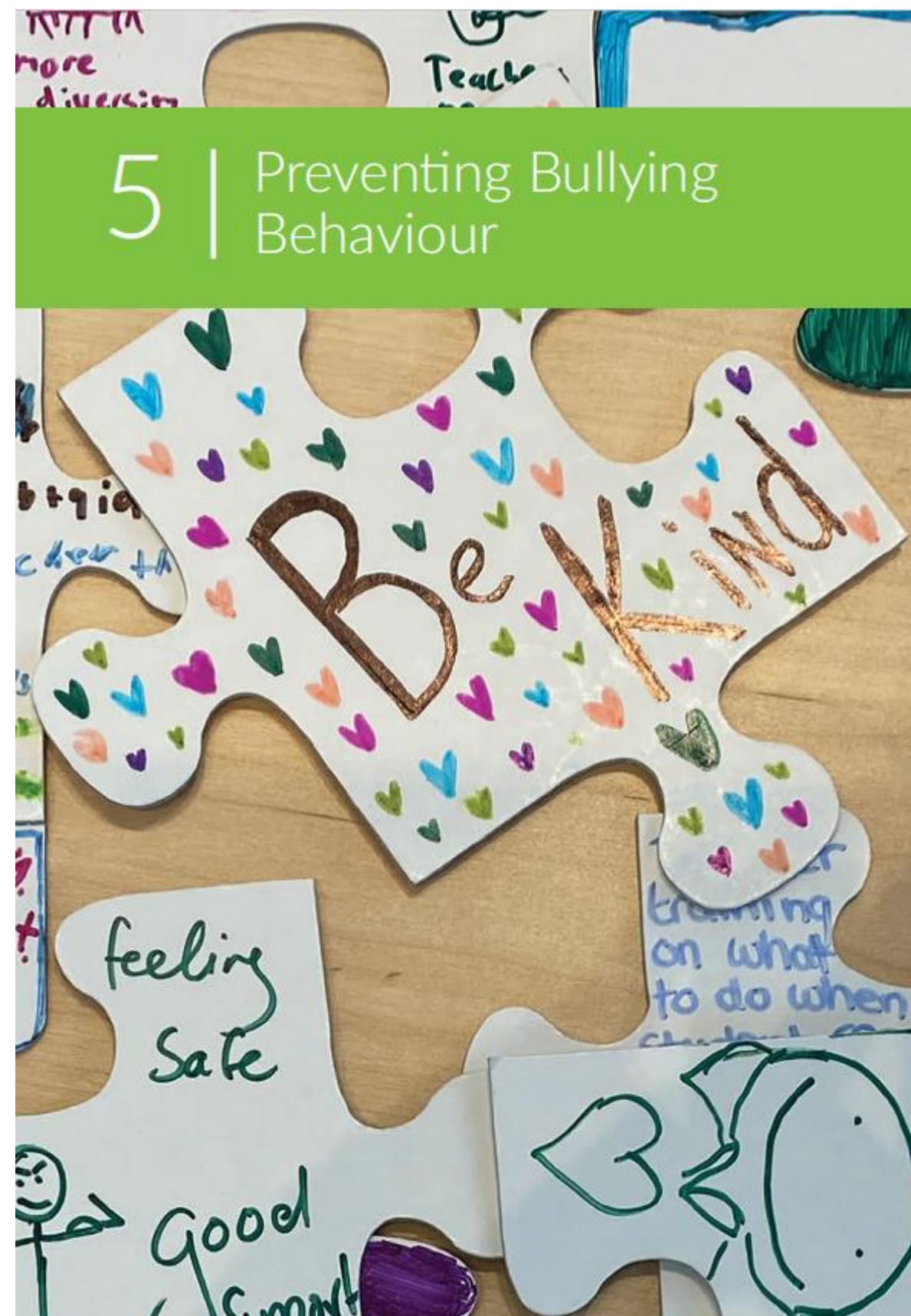


Existing Prevention Strategies

- **What is working well?**
- **Where can we improve?**

New Prevention Strategies

- **Are there new strategies we can implement?**



Addressing Bullying Behaviour



Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools

Appendix C Guide to Addressing Bullying Behaviour

The whole school community has a responsibility to prevent and address bullying behaviour. Schools should work in partnership with their patron, board of management, staff, students and their parents to develop and implement their *Bí Cineálta* policy.

This appendix is intended as a guide to addressing bullying behaviour. It is based on the information contained in Chapter 6 of the *Bí Cineálta Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.

Approach

The primary aim in addressing reports of bullying behaviour should be to stop the bullying behaviour and to restore, as far as practicable, the relationships of the students involved, rather than to apportion blame.

When addressing bullying behaviour teachers should:

- > ensure that the student experiencing bullying behaviour feels listened to and reassured
- > seek to ensure the privacy of those involved
- > conduct all conversations with sensitivity
- > consider the age and ability of the students involved
- > listen to the views of the student who is experiencing the bullying behaviour as to how best to address the situation
- > take action in a timely manner
- > inform parents of those involved

Identifying if bullying behaviour has occurred

Bullying is defined in *Cineálta: Action Plan on Bullying and Bí Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* as targeted behaviour, online or offline that causes harm. The harm caused can be physical, social and/or emotional in nature. Bullying behaviour is repeated over time and involves an imbalance of power in relationships between two people or groups of people in society. The detailed definition is provided in Chapter 2 of the *Bí Cineálta* procedures.

To determine whether the behaviour reported is bullying behaviour you should consider the following questions:

1. Is the behaviour targeted at a specific student or group of students?
2. Is the behaviour intended to cause physical, social or emotional harm?
3. Is the behaviour repeated?

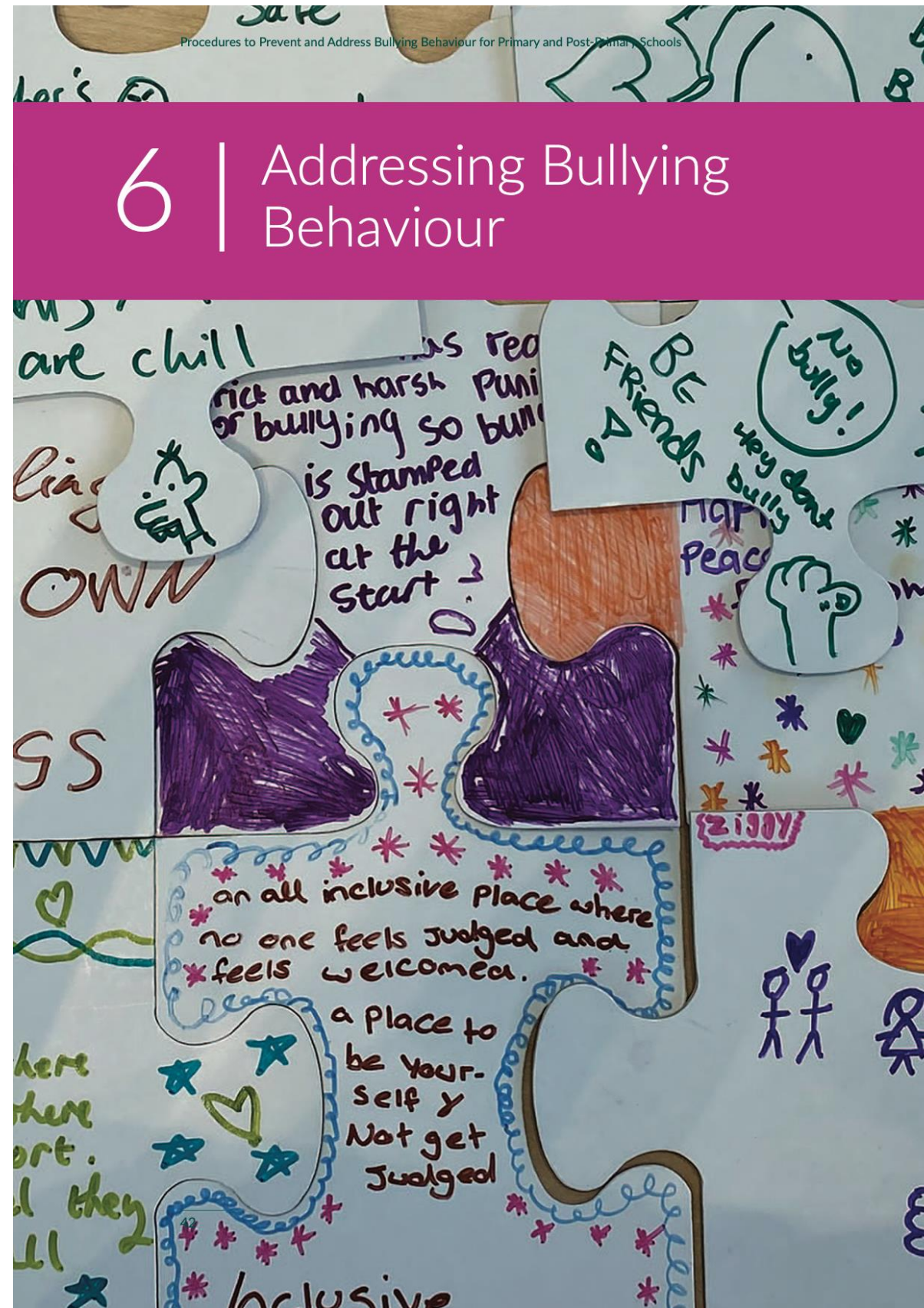
If the answer to each of the questions above is **Yes**, then the behaviour is bullying behaviour and the behaviour should be addressed using the *Bí Cineálta* Procedures.

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The primary aim in addressing reports of bullying behaviour should be to stop the bullying behaviour and to restore, as far as practicable, the relationships of the parties involved.

**Focus on Partnership Approach
Students/Parents**

Parents should be informed as early as possible when bullying behaviour has occurred.



Bi Cineálta Policy – Addressing Bullying Behaviour



Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools

Appendix A School BÍ Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour

BÍ Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour

The Board of Management of _____ has adopted the following policy to prevent and address bullying behaviour.

This policy fully complies with the requirements of *Bí Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2024*.

The board of management acknowledges that bullying behaviour interferes with the rights of the child as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We all, as a school community, have a responsibility to work together to prevent and address bullying behaviour and to deal with the negative impact of bullying behaviour.

We are committed to ensuring that all students who attend our school are kept safe from harm and that the wellbeing of our students is at the forefront of everything that we do. We recognise the negative impact that bullying behaviour can have on the lives of our students and we are fully committed to preventing and addressing bullying behaviour.

We confirm that we will, in accordance with our obligations under equality legislation, take all such steps that are reasonably practicable to prevent the harassment of students or staff on any of the nine grounds specified: gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Traveller community.

Definition of bullying

Bullying is defined in *Cineálta: Action Plan on Bullying and BÍ Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* as targeted behaviour, online or offline that causes harm. The harm caused can be physical, social and/or emotional in nature. Bullying behaviour is repeated over time and involves an imbalance of power in relationships between two people or groups of people in society. The detailed definition is provided in Chapter 2 of the BÍ Cineálta procedures.

Each school is required to develop and implement a BÍ Cineálta policy that sets out how the school community prevents and addresses bullying behaviour. Strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour that is not bullying behaviour are provided for within the school's Code of Behaviour.

Section C: Addressing Bullying Behaviour

The teacher(s) with responsibility for addressing bullying behaviour is (are) as follows:

When bullying behaviour occurs, the school will:

- > ensure that the student experiencing bullying behaviour is heard and reassured
- > seek to ensure the privacy of those involved
- > conduct all conversations with sensitivity
- > consider the age and ability of those involved
- > listen to the views of the student who is experiencing the bullying behaviour as to how best to address the situation
- > take action in a timely manner
- > inform parents of those involved

The steps that will be taken by the school to determine if bullying behaviour has occurred, the approaches taken to address the bullying behaviour and to review progress are as follows (see Chapter 6 of the BÍ Cineálta procedures):

The school will use the following approaches to support those who experience, witness and display bullying behaviour (see Chapter 6 of the BÍ Cineálta procedures):

Section C

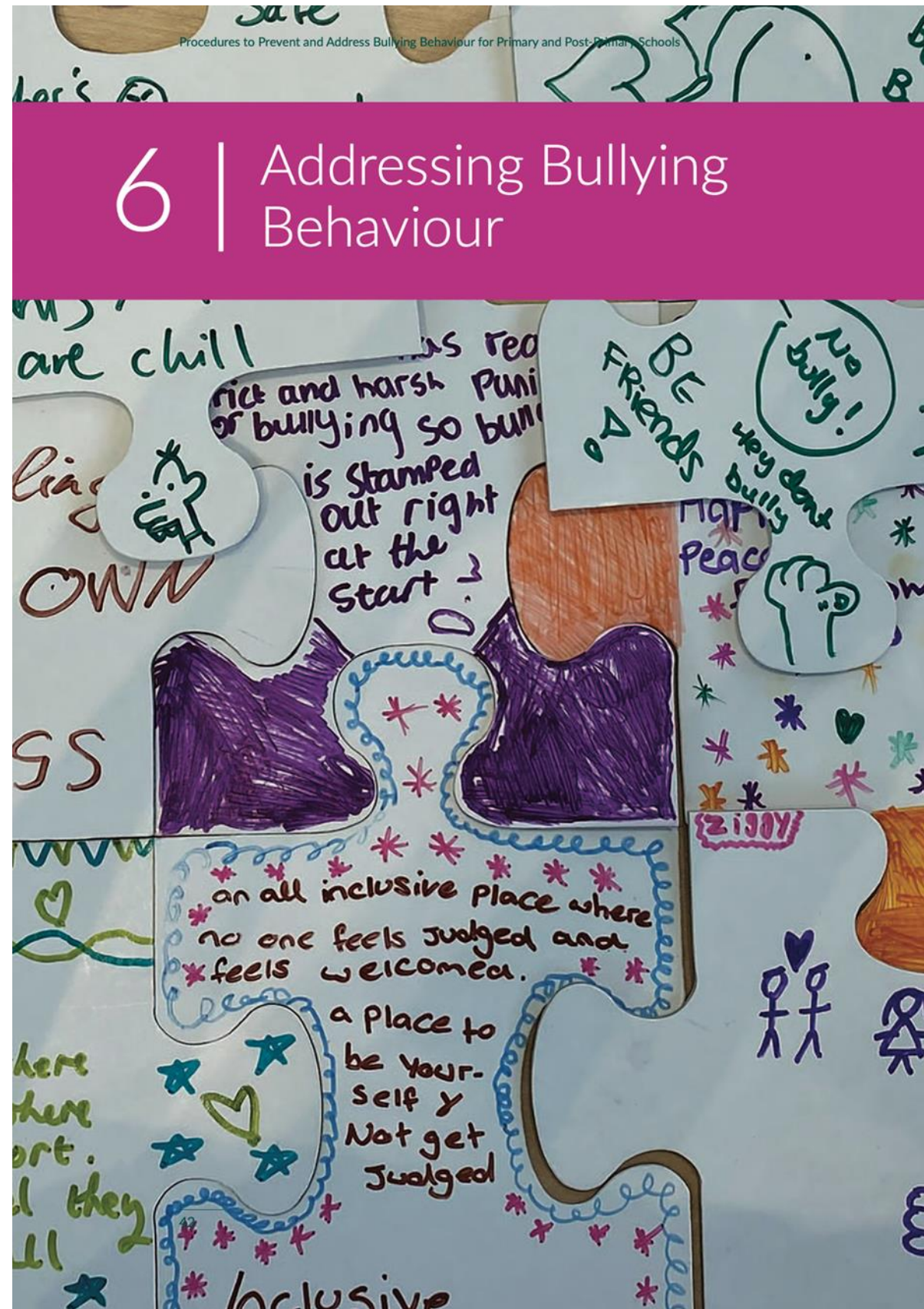
- **Responsible teacher**

Approaches taken to:

- **Determine if bullying behaviour has occurred**
- **How bullying behaviour is addressed**
- **How progress is reviewed**
- **Supports for those involved**



How do we address bullying behaviour?



- How do we currently address incidents of bullying behaviour in our school?
- Do we need to change how we address incidents of bullying behaviour

Discussion



Addressing Bullying Behaviour



Recording of Bullying Behaviour

All incidents of bullying behaviour must be recorded

- **Form and type of bullying behaviour (Section 2.5 and 2..7)**
- **Where and when behaviour took place**
- **Date of initial engagement with student(s)) and parent(s)**
- **Views of student(s) and parent(s) regarding the actions to be taken**
- **Date of review with student(s) and parent(s) to determine if behaviour has ceased**
- **Views of students and their parents in relation to this**
- **Engagement with external services and or supports (if any)**

Records should be retained in accordance with the school's record keeping policy.

Discussion

- **How is the school currently recording incidents of bullying behaviour?**
- **Do teachers use a common form?**
- **Does the form need to be amended to take account of the requirements of Bí Cineálta?**
- **What is the school's record keeping policy?**

Section 6.5 Bi Cineálta

