

Scenario A

Raj is a 2nd year student in a large urban school. Raj was born in India and his family moved to Ireland when he was a baby. He has a good group of friends and is described by his teachers as a quiet yet popular boy.

In recent months Zuri, a girl in his year has been taunting Raj. It started with comments about him being a 'Paki' and making fun of his dad's turban after he dropped Raj to school. When Raj corrected Zuri, telling her that he was from India but grew up in Ireland, Zuri and her friends laughed and began to mimic his dad's accent.

Things have gotten steadily worse since that incident and the more Raj ignores them, the worse their behaviour becomes. Whenever Raj takes out his lunch they start whispering about his food and sniggering. They often pinch and push Raj when the teacher isn't looking. Similar incidents have occurred when Raj is outside of school, as some of the girls live nearby.

Raj's father has become very worried about him, his behaviour has become unpredictable at home. Raj now refuses to bring traditional Indian food to school for lunch. Recently Raj has asked his father not to come to the gates of the school as "It'd be easier if people didn't see you."

Scenario B

Lily has been best friends with Agnes, Ella and Lorraine since primary school and the group can be largely seen as a 'clique'. As the year head puts it, 'they have a strained relationship with the rest of their year'. Through her hobbies and interests, Lily has maintained some form of friendship with some other students in her year. Due to different hobbies and interests, the girls have started to 'drift'. Lily sees on social media that the three girls met last Saturday in town. Lily was very upset and cried that evening at home. Her parents approach the year head and say Lily is being bullied by the girls.

The three girls tell the year head that they are 'just no longer friends'. They tell the year head they 'shouldn't be in trouble for not being friends with someone any longer'. That evening, the school Principal receives a phone call from Ella's father with the same message and requesting a meeting.

Scenario C

A group of students in 3rd year play an online multiplayer game together in the evenings at home. Among them is a girl named Aoife who is relatively new to the game. Another player, Ali, consistently targets Aoife during the game sessions. He mocks Aoife's gaming skills, calling her derogatory names and belittling her in the public in-game chat.

Not only does Ali insult Aoife during the game, but he also takes screenshots of her gameplay and shares them on social media with offensive and insulting captions such as 'girls are useless at this'. Ali encourages other gamers to join in the 'slagging'. As a result of this behaviour, Aoife starts to avoid playing the game altogether. She becomes anxious about interacting with the online community and loses interest in something she initially enjoyed. The persistent online harassment takes a toll on Aoife's mental wellbeing. She is now reluctant to attend school citing a tummy ache/ headache most mornings.