Bullying assessment matrix

The bullying assessment matrix tool can help you assess the severity, impact and frequency of a bullying incident and decide on an appropriate response.

The matrix is intended for use as a guide only. It is designed to support schools' bullying prevention policies and processes, and does not replace professional judgement and experience.

Severity

- ⦿ **Mild** — e.g. put downs, name calling, occasional social exclusion
- ○ **Moderate** — e.g. threats, intimidation, regular social exclusion (no sexual element)
- ○ **Major** — e.g. physical threats or harm, intimidation, sexual harassment
- ○ **Severe** — e.g. physical harm requiring medical attention, inappropriate sexual behaviour, incitement to suicide

Impact

- ⦿ **Mild** — e.g. target is resilient, has good peer support and seems to be handling situation with minimal adult intervention
- ○ **Moderate** — e.g. target is likely to cope well with minimal intervention/short term support from adults
- ○ **Major** — e.g. target likely to cope OK with additional school-based support
- ○ **Severe** — e.g. target vulnerable and/or likely to need ongoing, intensive support from school and/or specialist support

Frequency

- ⦿ **Mild** — e.g. has never or rarely happened before, and is very unlikely to recur or be digitally replicated
- ○ **Moderate** — e.g. has occasionally happened before but as initiator is willing to stop it is unlikely to recur or be digitally replicated
- ○ **Major** — e.g. similar incidents have happened a few times before , and /or are likely to recur or be digitally replicated
- ○ **Severe** — e.g. similar incidents have happened repeatedly (three or more times) and/or are very likely to recur or be digitally replicated