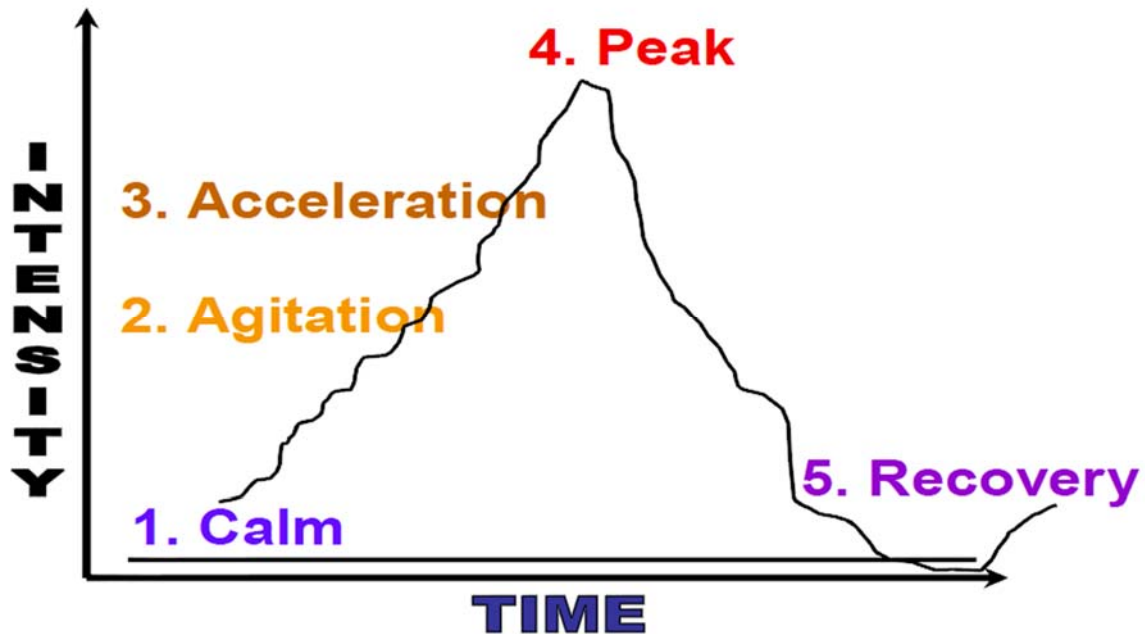


The Behaviour Continuum

It is useful for staff to be able to recognise the stages of escalating behaviour and strategies to manage each stage, as illustrated below.

This diagram was taken from Lyn Edwards' presentation at the LaST Conference



1. CALM

Student Behaviour

- High level of engagement and learning
- Positive classroom interactions

Teacher Responses

- Primary Support systems
- Reinforce school values
- Reinforce school/class rules
- Implement structures, routines, organisation
- Appropriate learning plan
- Adjustments to curriculum/lesson content
- Acknowledge/reinforce positive behaviour
- Rapport building

2. AGITATION

Student Behaviour

- Noticeable increase or change in behaviour
- Non directed expenditure of energy e.g. off-task behaviour, fidgeting, rocking on chair, off-task pacing
- Increased anxiety

Teacher Strategies

- Supportive staff approach
- Empathic non-judgemental
- Rules and expectations
- Encouragement and reinforcement
- Effective non-verbal communication
- Appropriate curriculum and quality teaching strategies
- Routines and organisation

3. ACCELERATION

Student Behaviour

- Argumentative, questioning, challenging, belligerent
- Defensive
- Challenges authority
- Beginning of loss of rationality
- Verbal escalation
- May use verbal intimidations

Teacher Strategies

- Directive approach
- Appropriate response to questioning e.g. information seeking or challenging
- Set limits/boundaries
- Remind of rules and expectations
- Choices
- Consequences
- Acknowledge good choices
- Support from buddy teacher

4. PEAK - Crisis

Student Behaviour impacts on safety of self and others

Student Behaviour

- Verbal aggression / verbal intimidation
- Physical aggression/assault
- Self-injurious behaviour
- May be unaware of impact of behaviour on self and others
- Total loss of control

Staff Strategies

- Remain calm
- Seek assistance
- Tertiary supports
- Team approach
- Implement crisis management plan
- Exit other students to safety
- De-escalate with calming strategies

5. RECOVERY

Student Behaviour

- Tension reduction
- Expanded energy
- Physically and emotionally drained
- Regained control

Teacher Strategies

- Debriefing
- Re-establish communication with individual
- Rebuild relationships
- Collaboratively review and develop plans of support