



**Avoidance or escape
from a situation, pain,
humiliation, shame.**

FUNCTIONS OF BEHAVIOUR

Control

Control of self, other people or the environment.

This represents the most important need – SAFETY. For people who do not understand social rules and norms (or school rules and norms) the world can be a frightening place. They try to recreate situations that are familiar to make the world predictable and understandable to them. In less structured situations (e.g. with less familiar staff, playground, etc.) students who do not trust adults to keep them safe feel an increased need to control the environment or others.

Avoid

Avoidance or escape from a situation, pain, humiliation, shame.

Avoidance of situations where we do not feel competent, capable and confident and fear humiliation. For students who have experienced trauma, the avoidance of shame is an incredibly powerful driver of behaviour.

Gain

Gain tangible items/activities. relationship with someone (commonly called 'attention seeking'), status, belonging, acceptance.

The need for attention and relationships with others is a fundamental human need. 'Attention seeking' is something that we all engage in. The manner or extent to which we seek relationships and attention from others is what is sometimes problematic, the need itself is not.

Express

Expression of self, frustration, pain.

For people with a limited ability to verbally communicate, they will use their behaviour to communicate their needs and wants.