

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION 132.

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132. Mr S T D Louw (ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

How does her department intend to prioritise the well-being and dignity of queer learners by establishing gender-affirming bathrooms as part of the Sanitation Appropriate for Education initiative?

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Response

The sector has taken steps to promote inclusivity and respect for queer learners to create a safe and supportive learning environment for all learners, including those who identify as queer. There are also guidelines for supporting LGBTQI+ learners, which include provisions for creating a safe and inclusive school environment.

In terms of sanitation, the sector supports gender-affirming bathrooms as part of the provision of sanitation in schools. This ensures that learners have access to bathrooms that align with their gender identity and intends to ensure that all sanitation facilities, including gender-affirming bathrooms, are accessible, safe and well-maintained. The implementation of these measures will be in a phased manner, starting with identified pilot schools.

To this effect, the DBE will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these measures in promoting inclusivity and respect for queer learners. By prioritising the well-being and dignity of queer learners, the DBE aims to create a safe, dignified and inclusive learning environment that promotes academic achievement, social cohesion and emotional well-being for all learners.