

**NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**ORAL REPLY**

**QUESTION 123.**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07/10/2022**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 36/2022**

**123.. Mr A Arnolds (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:  
to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

***Incidents of bullying/intimidation***

Noting how schools were encouraged to adopt codes of conduct that emphasised preventive disciplining regarding bullying and intimidation, (a) what protocols have been developed to investigate incidents of bullying, as cases of learner-on-learner bullying is widespread and (b) what are the further relevant details in this regard?

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#### **Response**

**a. What protocols have been developed to investigate incidents of bullying, as cases of learner-on-learner bullying is widespread?**

- Learners are informed to report bullying incidents to their teachers or school principals within their respective schools. Thereafter, a school principal will refer the matter to the disciplinary committee of the school which consist of the school deputy principal, School Governing Body members and some teachers for further investigation.

- Usually, the disciplinary committee of a school will investigate the bullying incident through engaging the affected learners (perpetrator/s, victim/s and bystanders) in the presence of their parents or guardians.

- The committee uses the school's code of conducts and anti-bullying policy to enforce fair disciplinary procedures against the perpetrators. For example, punishment such as detention or cleaning of classrooms might be enforced, the penalty depends on the severity of the incident that is being dealt with. Additionally, the committee will further recommend support services to be provided to the victim/s and the perpetrator/s which can include psychosocial support services.

**b. What are the further relevant details in this regard?**

- Schools are also required to develop and implement anti-bullying policies, in line with their schools' codes of conduct. These policies comprise of defining bullying and its different types (e.g physical, verbal, cyber, gender-based, etc.), the disciplinary procedures to be undertaken after incidents are reported and sanctions which will be undertaken against the perpetrators whom are found guilty.

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- Learners are further taught about bullying, its causes and consequences through the Life Orientation Curricular, which starts at Grade 4 and concludes at Grade 12. Understanding peaceful approaches to conflict management are covered systematically across the grades. Learner agency is also important as it encourages learners to stand up for the values and rights enshrined in the Constitution.
- The Department and its partner Departments: Social Development, Justice and Constitutional Development, Correctional Services, the South African Police Service and the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies have also embarked on an Inter-Departmental Campaign on Violence Prevention. This Campaign raises awareness on issues such as the prevention of bullying, corporal punishment, gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy and drugs and substance abuse in schools. The Campaign has been championed by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education and is supported by other Deputy Ministers from the partner Departments. The Campaign has been targeting districts with high levels of crime and violence known as hot spots. The Campaign includes build up events that take groups of learners through priority content areas related to violence prevention.
- Thus far, the Campaign has been rolled out in four provinces: Gauteng (Gauteng West District), Limpopo (Sekhukhune East District), Mpumalanga (Nkangala District) and the North West (Dr Kenneth Kaunda District). The Campaign also involves Senior Management Teams, School Governing Bodies, learners, parents and ward councillors of the participating schools, in this way the Campaign is a whole school community engagement.
- The Department intends to continue rolling out the Campaign in other outstanding provinces during this financial year and into subsequent years. Bullying is never eradicated, it is an issue that all school communities across generations will need to address and maintaining a high dosage prevention approach is one of the ways of building a peaceful citizenry.
- Moreover, districts in collaboration with provincial education departments and civil society organisations also conduct regular awareness

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raising interventions that explicitly advocate for the prevention of violence in schools. These provincial led programmes include school assembly talks, public debates and dialogues amongst learners. The DBE monitors these awareness programmes through the District Monitoring of School Safety Programmes annually.