



SCHOOL SAFETY



SCHOOL-BASED CRIME PREVENTION


is intended to enrich the participation of police officers in promoting safe and orderly school environments.

School safety is often a critical obstacle to learning. Crime, violence and abuse affect all aspects of our community, and schools are not always free from fear, intimidation or victimisation. The Department of Basic Education in partnership with the SAPS is committed to preventing, managing and responding to incidents of crime and violence in schools.

Prevention and early intervention are the most reliable and cost-effective ways to support schools in consistently delivering teaching and learning in an environment that is physically and socially safe.


Schools are encouraged to establish and maintain a Safe School Committee. A Safe School Committee comprises of internal stakeholders of the school, for example learners, educators, School Governing Body (SGB) members and school security personnel. External role players include the SAPS, the Metropolitan Police, local ward councillors, social workers and Community Police Forums (CPFs).





Non-Government Organisations such as Nicro, Khulisa and SANCA can also play a vital role as part of Safe School Committees.

The CPF can play a vital and pivotal role in school safety as the structure is an ideal platform to address violence and crime in the community as it impacts on schools. Another benefit of CPF involvement is encouraging a culture of community ownership. Representation of the school on the CPF should be encouraged. Information regarding drug suppliers and peddlers within the community that contribute to drugs being supplied to learners can be shared at the CPF. Participation within the CPF by school management assists in finding cohesive solutions to the crime challenges faced by schools within the communities.








DRUGS IN SCHOOLS

Our children are precious and we want them to have a safe place in which to learn and grow. We expect schools to be safe and healthy and, of course most of the time they are. Drug-taking among young people can make school a less safe and healthy place for all learners, whether they use drugs or not.


WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "DRUGS"?

A drug is any substance, synthetic or natural, legal or illegal that is administered with the intention to bring about a change in the behavior, emotions and thoughts of a human being.

When we talk about drugs in schools we mean:

-  Alcohol
-  Tobacco (cigarettes)
-  Cannabis (dagga)
-  Heroin
-  Cocaine



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- ✎ Ecstasy
 - ✎ Other addictive drugs such as 'Tik', 'Sugars', etc
 - ✎ Medicines prescribed for someone else
 - ✎ Harmful amounts of medicines easily bought at a chemist or supermarket


WHAT CAN WE DO?

Common signs that a young person might be at risk of drug abuse include:

- ✎ Mood swings
- ✎ Trouble at school
- ✎ Concerns about them among their friends
- ✎ Unexplained need for money
- ✎ Change of friends

Schools and communities have a responsibility to all learners-including any who may be at risk from drug use. They are encouraged to help learners at risk, not ignore them.

To help, schools, parents, the community and the SAPS need to work in partnership.



SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS FOR EDUCATORS

A SIMPLE LIST OF WAYS TO HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFE AT SCHOOL

- ✎ Enforce zero-tolerance policies toward the presence of weapons, alcohol, and drugs
- ✎ Establish and enforce drug-and gun-free zones
- ✎ Establish policies that declare that anything that is illegal off school is illegal on school
- ✎ Engage learners in maintaining a good learning environment by establishing a Representative Council of Learners
- ✎ Develop protocols between the SAPS and the school about ways to share information on and handle at-risk learners
- ✎ Develop resource lists that provide referral services for learners who are depressed or otherwise under stress
- ✎ Involve learners in designing and running





programmes such as mediation, mentoring, peer assistance, School Crime Watch, and graffiti removal programmes

- Establish a Safe School Committee to oversee the development and implementation of initiatives that address contributory factors to crime and violence. The SAPS is a critical role player in this committee

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE AT SCHOOL


For most of the year, children spend more time at school than anywhere else other than their home. At school, children need a secure, positive, and comfortable environment to help them learn.


Overall, schools are one of the safest places children can be. However, some schools have problems, such as bullying and theft, which make them less secure. These problems make learners and educators feel less safe, and it makes it harder for learners to learn and for teachers to do their jobs.




But there are specific ways that parents can make going to school a safer and more valuable learning experience for their children.


Children need a safe and comfortable environment to learn to the best of their abilities. This means that they have to feel safe in their school and be able to positively interact with their teachers and classmates. By doing the following, parents and other adults can help make sure children have a positive school experience.


 **Talk to your children** about their day. Sometimes children won't tell you right away if they are having problems at school. Ask your children if they see anyone bullied, if they are bullied, or if anything else makes them feel uncomfortable. Look for warning signs, such as a sudden drop in grades, loss of friends, or torn clothing.

 **Teach children** to resolve problems without fighting. Explain that fighting could lead to them getting hurt, hurting someone else, or earning a reputation as a bully. Talk to them about other ways they can work out a problem, such as talking it out, walking away, sticking with friends, or telling a trusted adult.






 **Keep an eye** on your children's Internet use. Many schools have computers with Internet access. Ask your children's school if students are monitored when they use the Internet or if there is a blocking device installed to prevent children from finding explicit websites. Talk to your children about what they do online i.e. what sites they visit, who they e-mail, and who they chat with. Let them know they can talk to you if anything they see online makes them uncomfortable, whether it's an explicit website or a classmate bullying them or someone else through e-mail, chat, or websites.


 **Ask about the safety and emergency plans** for your children's school. How are local police involved? How are learners and parents involved? What emergencies have been considered and planned for?


 **Play an active role** on the Safe School Committee at your children's school as well as on your local Community Police Forum.




TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL


 **Map out with your children a safe way** for them to walk to school or to the bus stop. Avoid busy roads and intersections. Do a trial run with them to point out places they should avoid along the way, such as vacant lots, bushy areas, construction areas, and parks where there aren't many people or adequate lighting.


 **Teach children to follow traffic signals and rules** when walking or biking. Stress that they should cross the street at crosswalks or intersections with scholar patrols when they can.

 **Encourage children** to walk to school or the bus stop with a sibling or friend, and to wait at bus stops with other children.

 **Teach children not to talk to strangers**, go anywhere with them, or accept gifts from them without your permission. Tell them that if they see a suspicious stranger hanging around or in their school they should tell an adult.





 **Help children memorize** their phone number and full address, including the area code. Write down other important phone numbers such as your work and cell phone on a card for your children to carry with them.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

SANCA **0861 472 622**

NICRO **021 462 0017**

REPORT DRUG DEALERS TO

SAPS CRIME STOP **08600 10111**

EMERGENCY NUMBER **10111**





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