



Safety in Education

Partnership Protocol between the **DBE** and **SAPS**



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Introduction

The Department of Basic Education and the South African Police Service (SAPS) have formalised their co-operative partnership through a signed agreement known as the Partnership Protocol.

This Protocol, sets out the framework for close inter-departmental co-ordination in order to create Safe, Caring and Child Friendly Schools, in which quality learning and teaching can take place.

The aims of this Protocol are:

The aims of this Protocol are to develop and support the implementation of school-based crime prevention programmes. These school-based crime prevention programmes aim to:

- (a) Strengthen Safe School Committees to curb crime and violence in schools;
- (b) Encourage all role players at school and communities to play an active role as members of Safe School Committees;
- (c) Link all schools to local Police Stations;
- (d) Establish reporting systems at schools;
- (e) Raise awareness amongst learners regarding crime and violence and its impact on individuals, families and education;
- (f) Establish a school-based crime prevention service and interventions, which will deter potential offenders and empower potential victims and past victims;
- (g) Extend crime prevention programmes to Early Childhood Development Centres in order to raise awareness amongst young children;
- (h) Mobilise communities to take ownership of schools; and
- (i) To promote the image of the South African Police Service, and to build positive relationships between schools, police stations, children, school communities and the police.

How will this goal be achieved?

The Department of Basic Education and the South African Police Service (SAPS) have agreed to work towards this goal through:

- (a) Intervening when crime occurs at school;
- (b) Addressing the culture of violence in order to promote healthy relations within the school community, in which the rights and responsibilities of all role players are respected and upheld;
- (c) Helping to counter the culture of violence by creating a values-based culture in line with the South African Constitution; and
- (d) Assisting the creation of secure, protected, protective and nurturing environments particularly for vulnerable children.

The Department, together with SAPS have agreed to a work plan to realise the goal of school safety in every public school:

Phase One

- (a) Establish collaborative protocols in all provinces;
- (b) Link 1000 schools in each province with local police stations;
- (c) Establish functional Safe School Committees at 9000 schools;
- (d) Establish reporting systems at all levels on school-based crime and violence;
- (e) Implement crime prevention programmes in 9000 schools; and
- (f) Mobilise school communities to curb crime and violence in schools.

Phase Two

- (a) Link 18 000 schools with local police stations;
- (b) Establish functional Safe School Committees at 18 000 schools; and
- (c) Implement crime prevention programmes in 18 000 schools; and

Phase Three

- (a) Link all schools with local police stations;
- (b) Establish functional Safe School Committees at all schools; and
- (c) To implement crime prevention programmes in all schools;

Other programmes introduced by the Department of Basic education in order to strengthen school safety?

1. Hlayiseka Early Warning System

The Hlayiseka Early Warning System was introduced and implemented in provinces as a management tool for principals, SGBs and educators on how to identify, prevent and manage risks and threats of crime and violence at school.

The programme consists of various survey questionnaires which assist principals, educators, learners and parents to identify possible risks and threats at school, and inform the school on how they put safety measures in place.

2. Code of Conduct for Learners

Section 8(4) of the South African Schools Act provides that all learners attending a School are bound by the Code of Conduct of a school. Each school must have such a Code. All learners attending the school are expected to sign a statement of commitment to the Code of Conduct.

The DBE developed an exemplar Code of Conduct for learners that which was distributed to all provinces as a guide for school principals to develop their own school-based Code of Conduct for Learners.

The Code of Conduct spells out the rules regarding behaviour at the School and describes the disciplinary system to be implemented when transgressions by learners occur. The Code of Conduct for Learners applies to all learners while they are on the school premises or when they are away from the school representing it or attending a school function.

The Code of Conduct promotes:

- The rights and safety of all learners and educators and parents;
- Learners' responsibility for their own actions and behaviour;
- Prohibition of all forms of unfair discrimination and intolerance; and
- Elimination of disruptive and offensive behaviour.

3. Partnerships

3.1 Positive Discipline and Classroom Management

In partnership with the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, the Department is in the process of developing a training manual for provincial and district officials, principals, SGB members, and educators on Positive Discipline and Classroom Management. The aim of this manual is to assist officials with the prevention and management of ill discipline in schools.

Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC)

The purpose of this partnership is:

- to promote road safety in order to guarantee the safety of learners to and from school;
- to address the causes of road accidents; and
- to speed up the process of developing safe and healthy environments for young people.

Programmes that will assist in educating learners on road safety include the following:

- Road Safety School Programme – Multi-media Programme;
- Junior Traffic Training Centres; Scholar Patrol;
- National Road Safety Debate Competitions; and

- Participatory Education Techniques which is a programme aimed at changing learners' attitudes towards road safety issues.

All schools must therefore

- Establish a functional Safe School Committee;
- Ensure that the school is linked to the local police station;
- Establish a Reporting System at school;
- Ensure a Code of Conduct for Learners is in place and implemented;
- Draft a School Safety Plan;
- Implement Access Control Measures for visitors and parents;
- Prohibit the carrying of dangerous weapons onto the school premises;
- Prohibit the possession or use of illegal substances;
- Develop a Crisis Response or Emergency Plan.

If you have any queries please contact the Department of Basic Education call centre on 0800 202 933 or info@dbe.gov.za

