

**Centre for International Teacher Education**

**Project:** Teachers and Social Cohesion

**Instrument:** Learner Questionnaire

**Research participant(s):** All Grade 8 and 9 Learners

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Instrument Code:**

**(For researcher only)**

***The purpose of this questionnaire:***

* *This questionnaire is being administered by the Centre for International Teacher Education (CITE) at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Mowbray.*
* *This questionnaire is part of a study examining teachers and their role in creating a school where learners, teachers and the community can work together peacefully. This questionnaire explores your understanding of social cohesion, the school you are in, your teachers, your school environment and your friends.*
* *Thank you for participating in this study. Your participation is* ***very important*** *as you are helping us to better understand how teachers and learners interact in schools.*

***How to complete the questionnaire:***

*The questionnaire consists of* ***16*** *pages (including this one). Expected completion time is* ***30-45 minutes.***

* *There will be specific instructions for each question. Please follow these instructions by marking the appropriate answer with a cross* ***(X),*** *or writing out your answers in the boxes provided.*
* *Please, answer the questions carefully with as much detail as you can.*
* *If you have any questions, please raise your hand and the assistant will come to your desk to help you.*

**YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY AND YOU MAY, AT ANY STAGE, WITHOUT PREJUDICE, WITHDRAW YOUR CONSENT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY**

**Section 1:** Information about you

*Please place an X in the box that describes you best.*

1.1 How old are you?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **12**  1 | **13**  2 | **14**  3 | **15**  4 | **16 or older**  5 |

1.2 Which grade are you in?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade 8**  1 | **Grade 9**  2 |

* 1. What is your sex?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Male**  1 | **Female**  2 |

1.4 What is your home language?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **isiXhosa**  1 | **Afrikaans**  2 | **English**  3 | **isiZulu**  4 | **Sesotho**  5 | **Setswana**  6 |
| **Sepedi**  7 | **isiNdebele**  8 | **Tshivenda**  9 | **Xitsonga**  10 | **siSwati**  11 | **Other (write it here)**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**12 |

1.5 Are you South African?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Yes**  1 | **No**  2 |

1.6 If you are not South African, what country are you from?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1.7 If you are South African, which racial group do you identify with?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Black**  1 | **Coloured**  2 | **Indian**  3 | **White**  4 | **I choose not to say**  5 |

1.8 Do you have a disability?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Yes**  1 | **No**  2 |

1.9 What is your religion?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **African Traditional Religion**  1 | **Christianity**  2 | **Hinduism**  3 | **Islam**  4 | **Judaism**  5 | **Other** (please write it here)  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**6 |

1.10 How do you get to school in the morning?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Car**  1 | **Bus**  2 | **Taxi**  3 | **Train**  4 | **Walk**  5 | **Other (write it here)**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**6 |

1.11 How long does it take you to get to school in the morning?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Less than 30 minutes**  1 | **Between 30 and 60 minutes**  2 | **Between 60 and 120 minutes**  3 | **More than 120 minutes**  4 |

1.12 Place an X over the area that best describes where you live presently

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **URBAN** | **City**1 |
|  | **Town2** |
|  | **Township** 3 |
| **RURAL** | **Small town** 4 |
|  | **Village** 5 |
|  | **Farm**  6 |

1.13 What is your parents’ or guardians’ job?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mother** 1**:** |  |
| **Father 2:** |  |
| **Main Guardian** 3**:** |  |

1.14 What is your parents’ or guardians’ highest qualification?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO**. | **OPTIONS** | **Mother** | **Father** | **Guardian** |
| 1 | National Senior Certificate/school leaving certificate | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | Diploma | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | Bachelor Degree | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | Postgraduate Certificate | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | Honours Degree | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 6 | Masters Degree | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 7 | Doctoral Degree | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 8 | I don’t know | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 9 | None | 9 | 9 | 9 |

**Section 2:** Your views

*Social* – relating to society and relationships

*Cohesion* – bringing things together

2.1 Circle the **TWO (2)** statement below that best describes what it means to you to be a South African?

**Everyone gets along well** 1

**No Violence** 2

**Respecting different people 3**

**Knowing what my leaders are doing 4**

**Working together to make the country better 5**

**Being a good citizen 6**

2.2 Place an X next to 3 of the options below that you think most affects how people live together peacefully.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **OPTIONS** | **X** |
|  | Religious intolerance | 1 |
|  | Language differences | 2 |
|  | Poverty | 3 |
|  | Unemployment | 4 |
|  | Inequality | 5 |
|  | Racism | 6 |
|  | Gender discrimination | 7 |
|  | Discrimination based on sex | 8 |
|  | Crime | 9 |
|  | Violence | 10 |
|  | Migration | 11 |

2.3 Place an X next to **THREE** options below that you think can help build a society where we can all live together peacefully

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **OPTIONS** | **X** |
|  | Making an effort to build relationships with people from different backgrounds. | 1 |
|  | Listening and understanding people’s thoughts and ideas | 2 |
|  | Accepting people who have a different background. | 3 |
|  | Learning more about people that have different backgrounds. | 4 |
|  | Helping someone by giving food and clothing. | 5 |
|  | Voting for my leaders. | 6 |

**Section 3:** Teachers at your school

*The following questions are about the teachers that teach you daily.*

3.1. Think about your ideal teacher. Please indicate your views of an ideal teacher in relation to each of the statements below. *Tick the box that best represents your view. Tick only one box for each statement.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **OPTIONS** | **Strongly Agree**  **1** | **Agree**  **2** | **Disagree**  **3** | **Strongly Disagree**  **4** |
|  | A Teacher who treats learners with respect |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who cares and supports the learners |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who disciplines learners fairly |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who treats everyone fairly |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who encourages respect for everyone |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who relates well to his/her students |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who encourages good behavior amongst learners |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who cares about my physical and emotional well-being |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who respects the religions of all learners |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who treats boys and girls equally |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who includes everybody in classroom activities |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who teaches tolerance and respect for everyone, including learners from other countries |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher that is knowledgeable about his/her subject |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher who makes lessons easy to understand |  |  |  |  |
|  | A Teacher that is well organized in his/her teaching |  |  |  |  |

* 1. Of all the items on Table 3.1 on the previous page, write down the numbers of the THREE characteristics that are most important.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

* 1. Please indicate how your teachers discipline you. *Tick the box that best represents your view. Tick only one box for each statement.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **TYPE OF PUNISHMENT** | **Never** | **Rarely** | **Some –times** | **Frequently** | **Always** |
| 1. | They shout at the learner |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | They hit the learner |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | They send the learner out of the class |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | They send the learner to the principal |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. | Other (please explain):  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |  |  |  |

**Section 4:** Your Curriculum and Textbooks

*The following section is about how the textbooks you use helps guide you to develop the skills you need to live in harmony with everyone.*

4.1 Circle ONE learning area option below in which you feel you learn the most about living together peacefully?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Mathematics | 1. Social Sciences | 1. Natural Sciences |
| 1. Technology | 1. EMS | 1. Life Orientation |
| 1. Creative Arts | 1. Languages |  |

4.2 Please indicate what you think you learnt about living together peacefully in the learning areas you circled above. *Tick the box that best represents your view. Tick only one box for each statement.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **OPTIONS** | **Strongly Agree**  **1** | **Agree**  **2** | **Disagree**  **3** | **Strongly Disagree**  **4** |
|  | I have learnt that I should respect everyone regardless of their background |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt to be accepting of different people |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt about various cultures in South Africa |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt that everyone is equal |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt to care about people who have less than I have |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt that unemployment is a problem in South Africa |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt about South Africa’s leaders |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt that what happened in our past affects how we live in South Africa today |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt about the negative effects of discriminating against others on the basis of religion, racial background, and gender |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt about the Constitution |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt about the rights I have as a South African citizen |  |  |  |  |
|  | I have learnt to respect people who are different from me |  |  |  |  |

4.3 Think about the Life Orientation learning area. How important do you think it is to learn about the following topics? *Tick the box that best represents your view. Tick only one box for each statement*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | | **OPTIONS** | **Important**  **1** | **Somewhat Important**  **2** | **Not important**  **3** |
| 1. | | How to be a responsible citizen |  |  |  |
| 2. | | Mental health |  |  |  |
| 3. | | The environment |  |  |  |
| 4. | | Helping others |  |  |  |
| 5. | | The laws of South Africa |  |  |  |
| 6. | | Finding employment |  |  |  |
| 8. | | The importance of exercise |  |  |  |
| 9. | | Good eating habits |  |  |  |
| 10. | | Your rights as a South African |  |  |  |
| 12. | | Respecting others |  |  |  |
| 13. | Being tolerant to others | |  |  |  |
| 14. | Being non violent | |  |  |  |

4.4 Think about the History learning area. How important do you think it is to learn about the following topics? *Tick the box that best represents your view. Tick only one box for each statement*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | | **OPTIONS** | **Important 1** | **Somewhat Important**  **2** | **Not Important 3** |
| 1. | | How to search for information about the past |  |  |  |
| 2. | | How to select important information |  |  |  |
| 3. | | How to know which information to trust |  |  |  |
| 4. | | Understanding situations from different points of view |  |  |  |
| 5. | | Understanding why things that happened in the past are sometimes not properly understood |  |  |  |
| 6. | | How to look at evidence from the past to know the truth about what happened |  |  |  |
| 7. | | Understanding past events in the correct order |  |  |  |
| 8. | | The importance of knowing our heritage |  |  |  |
| 9. | | The importance of knowing about how to conserve our natural resources |  |  |  |
| 10. | | The history of South Africa. |  |  |  |
| 11. | Being tolerant of other peoples points of view | |  |  |  |
| 12. | Respecting ideas that are different to your own | |  |  |  |

**Section 5:** Your school

*This section is about your school environment.*

* 1. How often did you experience or witness the following in your school over the last month?

*Tick the box that best represents your view. Tick only one box for each statement.*

| **NO.** | **OPTIONS** | **Did not occur**  **1** | **Some days**  **2** | **Most days**  **3** | **Every day**  **4** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Peer bullying |  |  |  |  |
|  | Drug or alcohol-related violence |  |  |  |  |
|  | Stabbings |  |  |  |  |
|  | Gun violence |  |  |  |  |
|  | Gang-related violence |  |  |  |  |
|  | Corporal punishment |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sexual violence |  |  |  |  |
|  | Violence based on race |  |  |  |  |
|  | Violence against females |  |  |  |  |
|  | Violence against homosexuals |  |  |  |  |
|  | Violence against foreigners |  |  |  |  |

*5.2* What do you think are the effects of the items above on learners? Tick the box that best represents your view. Tick only one box for each statement

| **NO.** | **OPTIONS** | **Rare**  **1** | **Common**  **2** | **Very common**  **3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Learners lose their ability to concentrate in class |  |  |  |
|  | Learners miss classes |  |  |  |
|  | Learners drop out of school |  |  |  |
|  | Learners have less time to learn |  |  |  |
|  | Learners’ academic performance suffers |  |  |  |
|  | Learners become depressed |  |  |  |
|  | Learners become afraid of violent teachers |  |  |  |
|  | Victimised learners become violent towards others |  |  |  |
|  | Learners see violence as the best way to solve problems |  |  |  |
|  | Learners suffer physical harm |  |  |  |

5.3 The following question refers to the infrastructure of the school. For example: the classrooms. *Tick the box that* shows whether you are happy or sad about a specific part of your school. *Tick only one box for each statement*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **OPTIONS** | **Happy ☺**  **1** | **Sad ☹**  **2** | **Do not have**  **3** |
| 1 | The classrooms |  |  |  |
| 2 | The toilets |  |  |  |
| 3 | The sports field |  |  |  |
| 4 | The library |  |  |  |
| 5 | The computer labs |  |  |  |
| 6 | Tuck shop |  |  |  |
| 7 | A secure fence |  |  |  |
| 8 | Enough textbooks |  |  |  |

**Section 6:** Your Friendships

*In this section we are interested in the friendships you have with the people in your class. While you may have friends from a different class or who do not go to the same school as yourself, for these questions please just focus on your friends in your current class. Please write their names and surnames.*

6.1 How many learners in your class would you consider your close friends? (The learners you like and hang out with)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6.2 Write down the names and surnames (e.g. Busi Khumalo) of your THREE close friends in your class. (Number 1 should be the name of your best friend)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NO**. | **NAME AND SURNAME** |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |
| 3 |  |

6.3 List THREE learners you spend the most time with in your class. (Number 1 should be the name of the person you spend the most time with)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NO**. | **NAME AND SURNAME** |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |
| 3 |  |
| 4 | Nobody |

6.4 List THREE learners in your class that you spend the most time with outside of school. (The first name should be the one you spend more time with than anyone else).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NO**. | **NAME AND SURNAME** |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |
| 3 |  |
| 4 | Nobody |

6.5 Think of the learners you don’t spend time with and who are not your friends. Which of the following influences your decision? Tick the box that best represents your views and only tick ONE box per statement.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **OPTIONS** | **Strongly Agree**  **1** | **Agree**  **2** | **Disagree**  **3** | **Strongly Disagree**  **4** |
|  | Language differences |  |  |  |  |
|  | Cultural differences |  |  |  |  |
|  | Different religions |  |  |  |  |
|  | Differences in racial background |  |  |  |  |
|  | Challenges associated with disability |  |  |  |  |
|  | Differences in social background (rich and poor) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Male and female differences |  |  |  |  |
|  | Attitudes and behavior |  |  |  |  |

Read the following and circle your answer as demonstrated in the example below*:*

Example:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NEVER** | **RARELY** | **SOMETIMES** | **OFTEN** | **ALWAYS** |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |

You have just been informed that your family is moving to another area far from where you currently live. This will mean that you have to register at a new school and live in a different area. On your first day of school, you realize that you are the only learner that is from your particular background, religion and who speaks your language. How does this make you feel? Please rate Items 6.6.1 to 6.8. it from 1 to 5.

6.6.1

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COMFORTABLE** |  |  |  | **VERY UNCOMFORTABLE** |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |

6.6.2

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PLEASED** |  |  |  | **WORRIED** |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |

6.6.3

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCARED** |  |  |  | **NOT SCARED** |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |

6.6.4

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CONFIDENT** |  |  |  | **NOT CONFIDENT** |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |

6.7 Are you worried that you would be treated badly?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NOT AT ALL** |  | **SOMETIMES** |  | **VERY MUCH** |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |

6.8 Are you worried that you may say the wrong thing and offend someone?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NOT AT ALL** |  | **SOMETIMES** |  | **VERY MUCH** |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |

6.9 We would like to know how the people around you feel about you socializing with learners from different backgrounds. Answer each question.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **OPTIONS** | **Strongly Agree**  **1** | **Agree**  **2** | **Disagree**  **3** | **Strongly Disagree**  **4** |
|  | My family is generally happy with me being friends with learners of a different religion to mine |  |  |  |  |
|  | My family is generally happy with me being friends with learners who speak a different language to mine |  |  |  |  |
|  | My family is generally happy with me being friends with learners who have a different background than mine |  |  |  |  |
|  | My family is generally happy with me being friends with learners who have a different gender to mine |  |  |  |  |
|  | My family is generally happy with me being friends with learners who come from families who are poorer than my family |  |  |  |  |
|  | My friends are generally happy with me being friends with learners of other religious backgrounds to theirs |  |  |  |  |
|  | My friends are generally happy with me being friends with learners who speak a different language to theirs |  |  |  |  |
|  | My friends are generally happy with me being friends with learners of a different background to theirs |  |  |  |  |
|  | My friends are generally happy with me being friends with learners who are of a different gender |  |  |  |  |
|  | My friends are generally happy with me being friends with learners who are poorer than them |  |  |  |  |

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire**

**☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺**

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