



## BULLYING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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Bullying in secondary schools in Kenya is common. The problem is well known to most parents who were once victims of this bad behaviour by the older students to younger ones. This vice has been studied by mental health experts as well as educational administrators but what eludes them is how to eliminate it from schools. Boarding schools seem to be affected more than day schools.

Bullying takes several forms including verbal abuse, use of vernacular language with people who do not understand it, forced cleaning of clothes and polishing shoes, physical abuse as well as sexual abuse and forced introduction to habits like smoking bhang or hard drugs.

While this endemic problem continues to thrive, profiling perpetrators should be studied so that meaningful progress can be made by the use of psychologists and counsellors.

Starehe Boys Centre and School was established in 1959 by three great men, namely, G.W. Griffin, Joseph Gikubu and Mr Geturo who have since passed. I had the privilege of attending this great school from form one to six. Bullying was completely unknown there and I believe it still is. The secret was that the Form 2 boys were assigned Form one boys to mentor and protect. The well-being of the form ones was the responsibility of the 2nd formers. This led to brotherly care of 1st formers.

Adoption of this model is recommended as well as steering the school life pattern without fear.



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