



MEDIA RELEASE

June 6th, 2025

Dear Editor / Head of Department,

MoE and Homeland Security Partner to Address School Indiscipline

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Homeland Security, has joined efforts to address the growing issue of student indiscipline in schools a matter that has emerged as a significant national concern.

During the post-Cabinet press briefing held on June 6, 2025, the Honourable Prime Minister, Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC, underscored the critical importance of restoring discipline and ensuring safety in the nation's schools. The Prime Minister reiterated that schools must remain secure environments for learning and development not spaces of fear, disruption, or violence and called for a collaborate approach to address the rising incidents of misconduct and aggression among students.

In line with this national directive, Dr. the Honourable Michael Dowlath, Minister of Education, and the Honourable Roger Alexander, Minister of Homeland Security, visited South East Port of Spain Secondary School on Friday, June 6, 2025, following a recent incident of student indiscipline. The ministers met with the principal and staff to hear their concerns firsthand, assess the current environment, and explore solutions to restore order. Minister Dowlath strongly condemned the incident, stating, "Acts of violence among students are entirely unacceptable. Schools must remain safe spaces for all. Any behaviour that threatens this environment will be treated with the utmost seriousness." The visit also included a tour of the school's facilities and operational areas to better understand the challenges being faced on the ground. Teachers were encouraged to provide direct feedback to both ministries to shape a sustainable and way forward.

The Ministry of Education is currently undertaking a comprehensive and urgent review of the National School Code of Conduct and the National School Discipline Matrix, in direct response to the escalating levels of student indiscipline. This review is not a routine exercise, it is a critical reassessment aimed at introducing more stringent, relevant, and enforceable measures to strengthen existing policies. The Ministry recognises that the current frameworks must evolve to effectively address the realities of modern-day infractions, including serious breaches of conduct and violence in schools. As such, greater clarity, consistency, and consequences will be embedded into the revised disciplinary structure to ensure it is firm, fair, and fit for purpose. The goal is to

establish a system of discipline that not only deters misconduct but also reinforces accountability and respect across all educational institutions.

In addition to its collaboration with national security stakeholders, the Ministry of Education emphasizes the crucial role of parents and guardians in supporting this national effort. The responsibility of fostering discipline and positive behaviour begins at home. The Ministry urges parents to work in partnership with schools and authorities to reinforce core values, respect, and accountability, both at home and in the community. A united approach between educators, parents, and the wider society is essential to create a safe and supportive educational environment for both students and teachers.

The Ministry remains committed to working closely with all stakeholders, teachers, school leaders, students, parents, and community partners to restore discipline, foster respect, and ensure that all schools remain secure, structured spaces conducive to learning and personal growth.

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