

Parents learn about restorative justice

MORE than 40 parents attended a recent briefing session at the Austerville Baptist Church to learn more about the restorative justice project their children were selected to participate in.

The programme is run by the South Durban Basin (SDB) Area Based Management (ABM) in partnership with the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders (NICRO) KZN to introduce a culture of restorative justice in schools.

Some 25 pupils were selected by their peers to act as mediators in conflict situations at their schools.

Restorative justice is a means of dealing with conflict situations by placing emphasis on repairing harm caused by

conflict.

Parents were informed by NICRO's Darian Smith about the roles their children will play in the programme.

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Phase one of the programme will include workshops in which pupils will learn about life skills and how to clarify their own values.

They will also be taught how to enhance social and moral development in their peers and how to promote positive

behaviour.

Phase two will see the pupils participate in a two-day wilderness journey camp to learn more about their purpose in a school environment.

SDB ABM social development manager, Eurakha Singh said the project is aimed at creating a better understanding among youth around conflict situations, encouraging accountability and socially responsible behaviour.

"The ultimate aim of the project is to reduce violence at community level," she said.

Sonia Solomon, an area manager with NICRO, expressed her gratitude for the support and partnership offered by the municipality and the SDB ABM.