

New app for bullying, sex assaults

Pupils can report abusers incognito

By **Jeff Wicks**

A smartphone app for school pupils that facilitates anonymous reporting of sexual abuse or bullying has been launched.

Creator Marc Hardwick, speaking at the launch in Durban yesterday, said the Guardian Schools app gives children a safe and instant portal to report contentious issues.

Schools that sign up for the app, at a monthly fee of R500, designate a team of staff members to receive the faceless reports, with any pupil who downloads the app able to report abuse or malfeasance.

“When a report is submitted, it will arrive as an e-mail to the pre-defined staff members informing them to log in to the system to access the details of the report and take the necessary action to safeguard the child,” said Hardwick.

“The staff members have the ability to request further information from the reporter but will never know their identity. This is extremely important to us, as the power of the app is ensuring the anonymity of the reporter,” he added.

Once the school investigates the matter, they can choose to refer the matter to the police.

“We believe that this application will not only help children to report abuse and get the help