

Russian Teacher Forces Late Students to Wear Gas Masks as Punishment, Sparking Probe

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A school in Far East Russia is being investigated after a teacher reportedly punished students for being tardy by forcing them to sit through the rest of class in gas masks.

Parents complained that a health and safety teacher made their seventh-graders wear gas masks for being late, a children's rights official in the republic of Buryatia said Monday.

"The OBZh teacher was disciplined verbally for using non-pedagogical disciplinary measures," the office [said](#) in an online statement.

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OBZh, a Russian acronym for "Foundations of Safety and Lifestyle," teaches students about healthy living, natural or technological disaster relief, and — a revived Soviet practice — the basics of civil defense.

After the disciplinary action was announced, regional investigators [said](#) Tuesday that they planned to carry out an inspection at the secondary school in the regional capital of Ulan-Ude.

“Naturally, long use of a gas mask can harm the physical and mental state of minors,” the Buryatia branch of the Investigative Committee said.

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