

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN **SCHOOLS**



Restorative Practices in Schools

Restorative Justice is

a philosophy that views harm and crime as violations of people and relationships, i.e. Who have you harmed? Aim is to reintegrate.

Traditional way is

A violation against the state. Someone is found guilty of a crime and is punished by law.

Parallel in schools.....about rules and regulations i.e. What rule have you broken? What is the sanction for breaking that rule?

- Restorative Justice demands that we think about what happens to the **victim**, and how the victim's needs might be met in the aftermath of the crime/wrongdoing.
- Punishment alone for the **offender** offers little in the genuine way of accountability; does little to meet a victim's needs and does little to address the causes of the wrongdoing.

Punitive V Restorative

- **Think of self**
- **Minimises harm**
- **Becomes the victim**
- **Blames others**
- **Excluded from the process**
- **Marginalised**
- **Think of others**
- **Recognises extent of harm caused**
- **Accountable**
- **Accepts responsibility**
- **Included in process**
- **Integrated**

**Good relationships need to be at
the heart of everything in school if
effective teaching and learning are
to take place**

Worksheet

‘Typical ‘problem behaviours’

- Coming late to school
- Homework not done or completed
- Failure to bring appropriate books/materials
- Disrupting class by talking/fooling around/speaking out of turn/throwing things
- Inappropriate language
- Abusing/fighting with another pupil
- Making a mess, not cleaning up
- Theft and property damage
- Bullying and harassment of others
- Rudeness, insolence and contempt

Worksheet 1 'Problem Behaviours'

- **What are :**
- The traditional responses?
- Code of Behaviour/Policy on Behaviour?
- In-class responses?
- Out of class procedures?

Traditional discipline

- *What rules have been broken?*
 - *Who did it?*
 - *What do they deserve?*
 - *Why did they do it?*



Restorative practice in schools

- Who has been hurt?
- What are their needs?
- Whose obligation are these?



Using Restorative Practices

- Everyone affected by bad behaviour/ a wrongdoing/a conflict has the opportunity to:
- Talk about what happened
- Explain how they have been affected
- Describe how they are feeling about what happened
- Say what they think has to happen to sort things out and to reach a resolution

Aim of Restorative Justice

- **.....is about Community managing conflict, harm and tensions by repairing and building relationships.**

Restorative Practice

- **‘..... is a process, to the extent possible, to invite those who have a stake in a specific offence to collectively ‘identify’ and ‘address’ harms, needs and obligations in order to heal and put things as right as possible’**
- **Howrad Zehr 2003**

Restorative Language

- Valuing the speaker
- Body Language
- Active listening skills
- Empathy
- Curiosity
- Feelings matter
- Self-awareness
- Use of Restorative Questions
- Conflict Management Skills
- Restorative Conversation

Whole School Approach

- **Happier and safer schools**
- **Mutually respectful relationships**
- **Less stress for staff**
- **More effective teaching and learning**
- **Reducing exclusion**
- **Raising attendance**

Stages of Implementation

- **Gaining commitment**
- **Information and training**
- **Developing a shared vision**
- **Developing responsive and effective practice**
- **Developing a whole school approach**
- **Professional relationships – Walking the talk**

Restorative practices in schools are more successful when they are seen, not simply as a response to extreme behaviour, but that the principles are in place in

- Staff-rooms
- Classrooms
- Corridors
- School yard daily



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