

## About Restorative Language

When our students find themselves in conflict or upset we will ask them:

1. What happened?
2. How did it happen?
3. Who was involved?
4. How did you act in this situation?
5. Who do you think was affected?
6. How were they affected?
7. What needs to happen to make things right? 'Apology of Action' - doing something to repair the relationship.
8. If the same situation happens again, what would you do?

## How do Restorative Practices benefit my child and school?

Restorative Practices help develop a happier school where the focus is on learning not conflict. We hope that your child will enjoy coming to St Mary's Catholic Primary School because they feel safe and respected and they know that when things go wrong, we will do everything we can to help put it right.

Restorative Practices encourage students to think about how their behaviour has affected others: students, staff and families. It helps children to develop respect, responsibility and honesty.

*"Active positive relationships are the key to success, happiness and harmony."*

(Martin Seligman, 2013)

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICES FOR SCHOOLS



Information for Parents and Carers:

What are Restorative Practices and how will they assist your child?

*Creating Positive Outcomes  
For  
Positive Learning*

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

St Mary's Primary School uses Restorative Practices to help improve relationships and build our community.

This leaflet will help you understand some of the things your child might come home from school and talk to you about.

Each class is working together to build a strong sense of community and belonging, developing consistent language skills and practices.

To help them do this we use a range of strategies such as **Bounce Back and Positive Thinking**. Each child is encouraged to be self aware, self reflective and self regulating.

The **restorative** language used in the school is a fair, respectful way of speaking to each other and we expect everyone within our school to use it — both staff and students — and we hope that you will respect this when you come into school.

## THE PROCESS

### RP Helpers

We have a Peer Mentoring / Mediation scheme within our school. Peer Mentors are senior students who are clearly visible on our playgrounds. We refer to them as **RP**

**Helpers**. If your child is concerned with something **minor** on the playground they will speak to an **RP Helper**.



If it remains unresolved it is important that there is further follow up with a teacher.

Not all issues are easy to solve and a student may be asked by a teacher to attend a **Restorative Practices Conference** if they are having a conflict. This is a meeting facilitated by a trained staff member where everyone involved will:

- Discuss what is happening
  - Look at who has been affected or upset
  - Decide how it can be put right
  - Find a way forward
- in a way that is fair and just to everyone -**

The processes of a Restorative Practices Conference ensure that students:

- Take ownership of their behaviour
- Accept responsibility and appropriate consequences
- Agree to move forward

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Restorative Practices allow the school to:

- Help maintain and restore student relationships.
- Help students reflect on situations to understand how their choices may affect them and others.
- Optimize and encourage positive outcomes and prevent reoccurrence.
- Monitor relationships.

Restorative Practices Conferences are not new. Many schools have used them for over 20 years and they have been proven to help schools improve management and wellbeing and develop a climate of respect, responsibility and honesty.

Schools using this approach have commonly found they have been able to:

### Reduce

- Exclusions
- Disruptive behaviour
- Conflict
- Bullying

### Improve

- Behaviour
- Learning
- Attendance

### Develop

- Truth telling
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Empathy

**RJ is not about any child being in trouble, it is about repairing relationships.**