

## **Restorative Approaches to Behaviour and Relationships**

### **What is it?**

Restorative Approaches are a range of practices used to promote positive relationships and behaviour in schools. They range from informal Restorative Conversations and Restorative Enquiry through to Restorative Mediation, Mini-Conferences and full Restorative Conferences.

The term 'Restorative Practices' is used in education to mean:

1. restoring good relationships when there has been conflict or harm;
2. developing school ethos, policies and procedures that reduce the possibilities of such conflict and harm happening.

*“Restorative Practice is a philosophy, in action, that places the relationship at the heart of the educational experience. Restorative work in school communities builds and maintains inclusive networks of positive relationships. A range of specific restorative tools are used to restore these relationships where harm and misconduct occur.”*

(Corrigan, NZ Ministry of Education, 2012)

### **What is the evidence of its effectiveness?**

Restorative Practice has been shown to build a school culture where the climate for learning is improved so enabling learners to learn and teachers to teach. Restorative Practice has also been shown to be a highly effective tool in improving behaviour and reducing exclusions. Engaging with Restorative Practice can enable your school to develop the competence and confidence of staff to promote positive behaviour and to deal constructively with negative behaviour.

### **How does it work? *Restorative Practice is about asking the questions:***

- What happened?
- Who has been affected and how?
- What's needed to make things right?
- How can we make sure this doesn't happen again?

There is a continuum of Restorative Practice in schools from the 2-minute Restorative Chat to the high-level Restorative Community Conference. Restorative work can be done with individual pupils and staff, groups of pupils, the whole class and at the whole school level. Used reactively, Restorative Practice is a form of constructive conflict resolution. Used preventatively, Restorative Practice is a selection of encounters such as a classroom conference or a peer mediation scheme that is a planned intervention that can build strong relationships and increase emotional literacy among pupils and among staff.

### **Example and Resources**

- [An example of effective use of Restorative Practice in school](#) - Harbour Specialist School, Dover
- [Restorative Approach in Schools in UK](#) – University of Cambridge, 2012