

Restorative Approaches

At both schools, we use a restorative approach where there has been a dispute or falling out.

This approach is well researched and helps to look at the harm that has been caused, repairing the relationship and preventing future harm. It is a voluntary process and takes the form of a conversation when BOTH parties are ready. Individuals are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and agree to repair the harm done. The process helps individuals learn from their mistakes to prevent future disagreements.

When facilitating a restorative conversation, these questions are used with all individuals:

- *What happened?*
- *What were you thinking of/feeling at the time?*
- *Who was affected and how?*
- *What do you need to move on and feel better?*
- *What do you think you need to do to make things right?*

You may find these questions useful to use at home where there have been incidents or disputes.

We find this approach very successful in terms of repairing relationships, giving the person harmed a voice and for individuals to take responsibility for their actions. The person who has caused the harm listens to those affected by their actions and learns how to repair the damage. This approach does not 'force' an apology but it does help people understand how their harmful actions have impacted others.

Please ask us if you would like any further information about this approach and how it is used in school.

