

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Definition Restorative: to give back; to repair the harm and rebuild; to reintegrate the person(s) who did the harm; restore a sense of wellbeing and connection.

St Paul's has incorporated the Restorative Practices model in their behaviour management since 2008. This approach was reviewed during 2015. Parallel to the Restorative Practices approach, we implement the

**5 Rs:** Remind, Redirect, Relocate, Reflect and Re-entry (See accompanying documentation for the 5 Rs)

Restorative Practices is intrinsic to the school's vision of: '**A welcoming and diverse Catholic Community**'

and connects specifically to our St Paul's Mission statements:

- Proclaiming Jesus and the Gospel values through word, prayer, celebration and example
- Creating learning environments that are welcoming and secure
- Providing learning experiences that are student centred, authentic and transforming
- Committing to a culture of high expectations of all
- Fostering the wellbeing, dignity, self-esteem and integrity of each person
- Providing opportunities that respect and cater for difference
- Living out our commitment as ambassadors of action and social justice
- Inspiring hope and a positive vision for the future

Education in schools is largely about relationships, which can often develop into conflicts which require resolution, forgiveness and healing. Restorative practices help students learn from their mistakes and reconcile and resolve problems with others.

Most importantly, the use of Restorative Practices places the students firmly at the centre of the restorative process, so that they can be active and thoughtful contributors to their own personal growth and behavioural improvement.

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The Restorative strategy views inappropriate behaviour as harmful to relationships, rather than rule breaking. It aims to assist teachers and students developing skills when restoring or repairing these relationships. Ultimately this will lead to improved learning outcomes for students.

The Restorative Practices approach emphasises personal responsibility and accountability for actions and behaviours, as well as the solutions to those actions and behaviours. It requires a commitment to do one's best to implement the solutions and to change behaviour. The model also ensures that consequences are fair and appropriate. In using the Restorative Practices approach, St. Paul's staff will model and teach the processes to be used, when there is a breakdown in relationships between students. We work together on 'resolving' the problem.

Restorative Practices aims to develop young people who make **good decisions**, who are **thoughtful** about their behaviour and who take **responsibility** for their actions. It helps children understand that

when they make inappropriate decisions or choices, they harm relationships and therefore need to be responsible for repairing them.

So what does it look like?

**Restorative Practices focuses on 3 main areas:**

- 1. A focus on the specific behaviours or incidents without blaming.**
- 2. A drawing out of who was affected and how they were affected.**
- 3. Direct questions toward problem solving that find out what needs to happen to “make things right?”**

When children have a disagreement or choose inappropriate behaviour, St. Paul’s staff will encourage the children to discuss what went wrong and how things can be made right. Led by the staff, children are asked the following questions:

**Affective questions.**

- 1. What happened?**
- 2. How did it happen?**
- 3. How did you act in this situation?**
- 4. Who do you think was affected?**
- 5. How were they affected?**
- 6. How were you affected?**
- 7. What needs to happen to make things right?**
- 8. If the same situation happens again, how could you behave differently?**

Restorative Practices enables staff to work WITH students in a cooperative and collaborative approach to behaviour management. It reminds everyone that:

**“It is not the falling down; it’s the getting up that counts.  
It’s all about RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS”**

Articles on Restorative Practice are available on request.

Please contact Ms Cathy Doran (Deputy Principal) for further information.