



An Introduction to Restorative Practice for Parents/Carers



*For effective teaching and learning
to take place, we believe that good
relationships need to be at the
heart of everything that happens at
Lane End Primary School.*

What is Restorative Practice?

A restorative school is one which takes a restorative approach to resolving conflict and preventing harm. Restorative approaches enable those who have been harmed to convey the impact of the harm to those responsible, and for those responsible to acknowledge this impact and take steps to put it right.

Who uses Restorative Practice?

The beginnings of Restorative Practice is rooted in the restorative justice system which is used in many countries across the world. It is used in many schools and educational establishments but also in many workplaces and organisations, including Leeds City Council, which is a Restorative workplace.

What is the goal of Restorative Practice?

The aim of Restorative Practices is to develop community and to manage conflict and tensions by repairing harm and building relationships. This is our priority as a restorative school, as we see ourselves at the heart of and serving our community.

It is a process that puts repairing harm done to relationships and people over and above assigning blame and dispensing punishment. It shifts the emphasis from managing behaviour to focussing on building, nurturing and repairing relationships.

Why are we using Restorative Practice at Lane End?

We believe here at Lane End that our whole school ethos and vision along with Restorative Practice promotes and priorities building and developing strong relationships and friendships. This makes everyone in school happier and more likely to achieve their full potential.

We know that a whole school restorative approach can contribute to:

- Happier and safer schools
- Mutually respectful relationships
- More effective teaching and learning
- Raised attendance
- Addresses bullying behaviour

- Raises morale and self esteem
- Helps promote a culture of inclusion and belonging
- Increases emotional literacy

What happens when a relationship breaks down?

When a relationship breaks down or there is a problem and it is affecting the children's emotional well-being and/or learning they will take part in a re-active circle. This circle is to get to the bottom of the problem and allows everyone to move on.

An impartial adult not involved in the issue will lead the circle and ask those involved a series of questions. We have simplified these to work for all our children here at Lane End.

Questions for those that have been harmed by the actions of others (this could include both staff and pupils)

What happened?

How did you feel at the time?

What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

Questions for pupils with challenging behaviour

What happened?

How did you feel at the time?

How has the victim been affected?

What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

Talking is key

Restorative Practice is NOT just about the questions. It is about a process that is seen as fair: allows free expression of emotions and significantly is about offering high levels of support, whilst challenging inappropriate behaviour. Children are encouraged to accept responsibility for their actions and reminded of boundaries.



Keeping Our Class Communities Strong

Every week each class has Restorative Practice circles. These are opportunities for the class community to come together and talk, share experiences, play games, offer advice and support to each other.

These circles help the children in the class to learn more about their class mates and keeps the relationships tight. The stronger the bonds and the relationships the less likely you are to cause harm or upset someone.

Examples of RP in Classes

Below are some examples of RP displays across school to represent a class community. The circle is significant as it represents no beginning and no end. It is also important as it teaches the children if someone is upset or struggling it breaks the entire circle, and as a class community they need to look out for each other.



Every child in the class is represented in the circle.



To learn more about 'Restorative Practice' please see our school website. You will find it in the 'Parents' tab under the heading 'Restorative Practice'.

If you have any further thoughts or questions please see your child's class teacher or Mr Tabiner.