



Restorative Practices in Schools

At its simplest, Restorative Practices is an approach to behaviour management. Restorative Practices puts inappropriate behaviour in the context of relationships and the effect that this behaviour has on relationships, rather than simply as an instance of contravention of a rule.

In the wider community, inappropriate behaviour directly affects those involved but has less effect on the community generally. In a school setting, the otherwise indirect effects of inappropriate behaviour often do directly affect the classroom and sometimes the school community. This is the hothouse effect of having many people working closely together over a period of years.

In addition, in a school setting we have a community of young people who will and who need to make mistakes as part of their growth. Children will lie at some stage; children will form groups that exclude others; and, children will fight. As a school, we have generations of experience, we are in the best position to give guidance and to make realistic and fair judgments. In a school setting, the impact of small things can be great due to the closeness of the community and the importance of creating a learning environment.

Core Value	School Rule	Rights	Responsibilities
RESPECT	Be respectful	I have the right to be treated with respect.	I have the responsibility to respect others, the environment, and the property of others.
SERVICE	Be helpful	I have the right to be helped.	I have a responsibility to use my gifts and talents to help others.
COMPASSION	Be compassionate	I have the right to be safe and cared for.	I have a responsibility to demonstrate care and respect the safety of others.
JUSTICE	Be responsible	I have the right to be treated fairly.	I have the responsibility to be inclusive and treat others fairly.
EXCELLENCE	Be your best	I have the right to experience success and feel valued.	I have the responsibility to allow others to succeed and to celebrate the success of others.