RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS

Restorative Practices in Schools
Restorative Justice is ………

a philosophy that views harm and crime as violations of people and relationships, i.e. Who have you harmed? Aim is to reintegrate.

Traditional way is ………

A violation against the state. Someone is found guilty of a crime and is punished by law.

Parallel in schools.....about rules and regulations i.e. What rule have you broken? What is the sanction for breaking that rule?
• Restorative Justice demands that we think about what happens to the **victim**, and how the victim’s needs might be met in the aftermath of the crime/wrongdoing.

• Punishment alone for the **offender** offers little in the genuine way of accountability; does little to meet a victim’s needs and does little to address the causes of the wrongdoing.
Punitive V Restorative

- Think of self
- Minimises harm
- Becomes the victim
- Blames others
- Excluded from the process
- Marginalised

- Think of others
- Recognises extent of harm caused
- Accountable
- Accepts responsibility
- Included in process
- Integrated

Restorative Practices in Schools
Good relationships need to be at the heart of everything in school if effective teaching and learning are to take place.
Worksheet
‘Typical ‘problem behaviours’

- Coming late to school
- Homework not done or completed
- Failure to bring appropriate books/materials
- Disrupting class by talking/fooling around/speaking out of turn/throwing things
- Inappropriate language
- Abusing/fighting with another pupil
- Making a mess, not cleaning up
- Theft and property damage
- Bullying and harassment of others
- Rudeness, insolence and contempt
Worksheet 1 ‘Problem Behaviours’

- **What are:**
  - The traditional responses?
  - Code of Behaviour/Policy on Behaviour?
  - In-class responses?
  - Out of class procedures?
Traditional discipline

- What rules have been broken?
  - Who did it?
- What do they deserve?
- Why did they do it?
Restorative practice in schools

• Who has been hurt?

• What are their needs?

• Whose obligation are these?
Using Restorative Practices

• Everyone affected by bad behaviour/ a wrongdoing/a conflict has the opportunity to:
  • Talk about what happened
  • Explain how they have been affected
  • Describe how they are feeling about what happened
  • Say what they think has to happen to sort things out and to reach a resolution
Aim of Restorative Justice

- ......is about Community managing conflict, harm and tensions by repairing and building relationships.

Restorative Practices in Schools
Restorative Practice

• ‘….. is a process, to the extent possible, to invite those who have a stake in a specific offence to collectively ‘identify’ and ‘address’ harms, needs and obligations in order to heal and put things as right as possible’

• Howrad Zehr 2003
Restorative Language

- Valuing the speaker
- Body Language
- Active listening skills
- Empathy
- Curiosity
- Feelings matter
- Self-awareness
- Use of Restorative Questions
- Conflict Management Skills
- Restorative Conversation

Restorative Practices in Schools
Whole School Approach

• Happier and safer schools
• Mutually respectful relationships
• Less stress for staff
• More effective teaching and learning
• Reducing exclusion
• Raising attendance
Stages of Implementation

• Gaining commitment
• Information and training
• Developing a shared vision
• Developing responsive and effective practice
• Developing a whole school approach
• Professional relationships – Walking the talk
Restorative practices in schools are more successful when they are seen, not simply as a response to extreme behaviour, but that the principles are in place in

- Staff-rooms
- Classrooms
- Corridors
- School yard daily

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