

## How can I help?

Community strong support is essential in creating the restorative ethos within our school. It is essential that the wider community understand what it means to act responsibly.

You can support pupils understanding of restorative approaches by:

- Reading our Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy
- Use restorative language
- Discuss with your child, how their behaviour can affect others
- Encourage your child to see things from other people's points of view
- Promote independence; encourage your child to resolve their differences themselves
- Familiarise yourself with the terms under The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("UNCRC"). The UNCRC identifies civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to.
- Encourage your child to be a good friend
- Talk to your child, listen to your child
- Understand the power of praise; everyone learns best when they feel good about themselves.

Please contact the school if you would like to discuss Restorative Approaches further, or learn a little more about how it is applied in our unique setting.

## TLC

It is important that pupils build resilience and develop independence. At Portlethen School, pupils are encouraged to take the lead in resolving any harm or upset that may have occurred.

The Pupil Council devised a pneumonic that will help pupils resolve conflict independently and restoratively. Pupils are asked to use a little TLC when they see that others are upset. TLC stands for:

### TALK, LISTEN, CALM

These are the three most important actions when trying to resolve conflict.

	Talk to each other. Explain why you are upset.
	Listen to each other. Share your feelings.
	Stay calm.



# Portlethen School

T rust T eamwork R espect A chievement I nclusion N uture

## Restorative Approaches

### A Guide for Parents/Carers

Portlethen School is a Restorative School.

We take a restorative approach to resolving conflict and preventing harm.

We promote TLC; talk, listen and calm.

We encourage those who have been harmed to share their feelings to those responsible to acknowledge the harm done and take steps to put it right.

## Restorative Approaches - Explained

Developing a safe learning environment, where relationships are positive and supportive is key at Portlethen School.

Adopting a restorative approach has led to a more nurturing and positive ethos within our school. Pupils and staff use a range of methods and strategies to prevent relationship-damaging incidents from happening and to resolve them if they do. We learn about body language and empathy, the importance of considering another person's point of view and how essential listening skills are.

Becoming a restorative school has many benefits, including increased attendance and achievement and a reduction in classroom disruptions and poor attendance.

Moray House School of Education, summarise the underpinning principles of Restorative Approaches as follows:

- fostering positive social relationships in a school community of mutual engagement
- taking responsibility and accountability for one's own actions and their impact on others
- respecting other people, their views and feelings
- empathy with the feelings of others
- fairness
- commitment to equitable process
- active involvement of everyone in school in making decisions about their own lives
- issues of conflict and difficulty being retained by the participants, rather than the behaviour pathologised, and
- a willingness to create opportunities for reflective change in pupils and staff.

## PPS - A Restorative School

Portlethen School adopts a whole-school approach to restorative justice. All staff have an understanding of the principles, language, methods and strategies of restorative justice and the ability to apply them in order to prevent or resolve a situation or conflict.

The foundations of restorative justice are introduced during the early stages, Nursery and Primary 1. Pupils will build on their knowledge and understanding as they progress through the school.

By following the principles of restorative justice, members of the school community will be able to prevent conflict, build relationships and repair harm by enabling effective and positive communication.

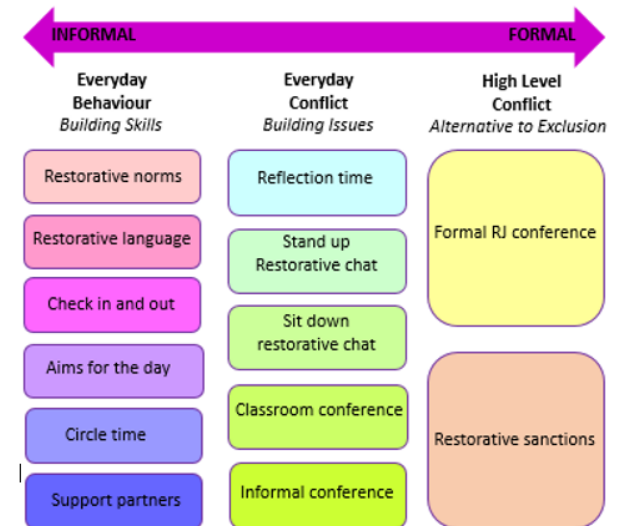
Staff and pupils will be encouraged to follow the principles of restorative justice as follows:

- Focus on harm caused by the wrong-doer and actively seek ways of repairing that harm.
- Encourage dialogue and communication between the affected parties.
- Allow all parties the opportunity to openly state their views, listen to others and acknowledge their views.
- Engage in discussions that are fair, open, and honest; treating all participants with respect.
- Facilitate a shared understanding of why the conflict occurred.
- Encourage an acceptance of responsibility.

## Restorative Approaches in Action

Restorative practices are flexible and often overlap. Informal practices take the form of ongoing, day-to-day dialogue within the classroom, the corridor or playground and are designed to resolve everyday conflicts and promote social and communication skills. Formal practices require a more structured format and are designed to resolve higher levels of conflict.

Overview of the steps involved in informal and formal practices:



Overview of the steps involved in a Restorative Circle/Classroom Conference:

