

Restorative Approaches - Information

At Ysgol Calon Cymru, Restorative Approaches is a fundamental part of our positive behaviour policy. As part of this policy our school continues to develop a restorative approach to resolving conflict.

This document explains more about the restorative approach and explains how you can support your child.

Aims of a Restorative Approach

- to develop the skills and abilities of people to manage their thoughts and feelings.
- to build the ability for people to take responsibility for their own actions.
- to aid people in developing the skills necessary to rebuild and repair relationships.

What is a Restorative Approach?

The principles of restorative approaches is to build, maintain and repair relationships. It is an educative approach, helping those involved to learn how to change. Restorative approaches are based on **five key features**:-

Respect – for everyone by listening to other opinions and learning to value them;

Relationships – fostering social relationships in a school community of mutual engagement;

Responsibility – taking responsibility for your own actions and learning to make the right choice;

Repair – developing the skills to identify solutions to repair harm;

Re—integration – using a structured, supportive process that resolves the issues and ensures behaviours are not repeated.

How do we use it?

The restorative approach requires all staff to be aware of the principles of the restorative process, and have the ability to apply them in resolving situations in their classes and around the school. To be a restorative school we will endeavour to make restorative statements part of our everyday language. To encourage people to think about their thoughts, feelings and behaviour during a restorative enquiry we would ask the following questions:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking/feeling at the time?
- Who do you think has been affected by what happened and in what way?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?
- What are you going to do differently next time?

When do we use it?

Restorative approaches are used when hurtful or harmful behaviour has caused harm and damaged relationships.

What does this mean for my child?

To repair the harm and mend the relationships we may:

- carry out a restorative enquiry with those alleged to be involved. This is a staff and pupil conversation to find out who is affected and what needs to happen for everyone to move on.
 - a restorative meeting may take place if required. This is a meeting between a staff member and two or more young people. Everyone has the opportunity to say what has happened, how they feel and what needs to happen for everyone to move on.
- you may be invited to discuss your thoughts and feelings about the incident.

How can I help?

- encourage your child to see situations from other person's view point.
- encourage your child to pay close attention to what people are saying.
- encourage your child to talk to others respectfully and without putting them down.
- encourage your child to support others through positive friendships.
- try to be a good listener.