

RESTORATIVE APPROACH

A PARENT'S GUIDE



Istead Rise Primary School uses a **Restorative Approach** to manage and improve behaviour. The aim of this guide is to explain the process and how it is used in the school. It could also be a useful tool for you to use in the home.

What is a Restorative Approach?

A Restorative Approach focuses on developing positive relationships within the school, both pupil to pupil and staff to pupil. It creates a safe, secure environment which enables children to develop both academically and socially. On a day to day level this involves talking to the children about their thoughts and feelings. In response to conflict, it focuses on the harm that has been caused and ways to repair the harm and restore the relationship.

The Restorative Approach has been used worldwide by many schools and it has been proven to have many benefits, including improving children's behaviour and developing a happy and cohesive school community.

How can a Restorative Approach benefit your child?

Benefits include positive relationships, confident and happy children with good social skills, increased attendance, improvement in behaviour and a reduction in exclusions. All these benefits create an environment in which children can learn and flourish. At Istead Rise Primary School, the teachers use restorative language around the school and will always hold restorative meetings in response to incidents. Peer Mediators have also been trained by Behaviour Matters Ltd. to work restoratively to help their peers resolve issues.

What is Restorative Language?

Restorative Language is a calm, fair and respectful way of communicating which allows individuals to express their thoughts and feelings.

What are the Restorative Questions?

The Restorative Questions are used in response to specific incidents. A member of staff will talk to the children and ask them a set of questions giving each child the opportunity to tell their side of the story without being judged or blamed.

The questions are:

- What happened?
- How did you feel/what were you thinking at the time? How are you feeling now?
- Who else has been affected?
- What needs to be done to repair the harm?
- What could you do differently next time prevent this happening again?

These questions teach children responsibility by allowing them to see the impact of their actions on others.

A Restorative Approach to conflict creates positive outcomes from negative behaviour