

RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

WHAT is Restorative Practice?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJJxnb1VjYo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9I8dDGKUcg>

WHY is this important for our students?

Restorative Practice is a way of managing student behaviour that helps prepare them for the demands of life beyond school. That means teaching them to recognise and understand how to get on with others and how to take responsibility for their behaviour. They are taught strategies that help them do this. This approach is vital in today's world given the collaborative work places many students will find themselves a part of and the very real issues around anxiety that so many New Zealand youth are experiencing.

The approach is a movement away from a traditional retributive focus (on wrongdoing and punishment) towards a restorative approach that seeks to repair the harm caused.

Traditional School Approach		Restorative Justice Approach	
School rules are broken	Justice focuses on establishing guilt	People and relationships are broken	Justice identifies needs and responsibility
Accountability = punishment	Justice directed at the offender; the victim is ignored	Accountability = understanding impact and repairing harm	Offender, victim, school all have direct roles in the justice process
Rules and intent outweigh whether outcome is positive or negative	Limited opportunity for expressing remorse or making amends	Offender is responsible for harmful behaviour, repairing harm and working towards positive outcome	Opportunity given to make amends and express remorse.

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Restorative approach compared to other approaches

'A useful way of looking at how the restorative approach works within a school community is the Social Discipline Window (below). This model's four quadrants identify four sets of attitudes and responses to behaviour' (Restorative Practice Kete, MOE, 2002).

