

Why we do what we do

RESTORATIVE CONVERSATIONS

THE SCIENCE:

Restorative approaches:

- A restorative approach is a way of working with conflict that puts the focus on repairing the relationship and any harm that has been done.
- It includes all parties involved and asks them to share what their involvement was, the impact of the conflict and agreement about how the conflict can be avoided in the future.
- A restorative approach involves asking the following questions
 - What happened?
 - What were you thinking and feeling at the time?
 - What do you think and feel now?
 - Who has been affected by this?
 - What is needed to put things right?
 - How can we make sure that this doesn't happen again?

Research suggests:

- Schools with a restorative approach enjoy an improved climate for learning, conflict becomes less disruptive to students' learning and relationships improve.
- Students are able to learn how to behave better, understand the (often unintended) impact of their behaviour on others and accept greater accountability for improving their own behaviour.

THEREFORE :

When a student is placed in Seclusion, a restorative conversation takes place between the student and the teacher involved.

It is important that this conversation takes place before the next lesson so that the student and teacher can agree how conflict can best be avoided from happening again. It also means that a line is drawn under the behaviour and the next lesson is a fresh start.

To make sure these conversations work, students in Seclusion are provided with a sheet to help them prepare their responses to the questions opposite so that they are honest, reflective and well-thought-through.