



Living in the Hope and Joy of Resurrection

A Restorative approach

What provides our school with a distinctively Christian ethos?

We decided that living in the hope and joy of the Resurrection of Christ provided a basis for our Christian distinctiveness. The central belief of the Christian faith is that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again to new life. The implications of this belief are almost limitless. While the Resurrection story deals with issues of life and death (and new life), the echoes of this transformative event are immediately apparent in everyday life.

Each day brings its own endings and new beginnings; and seen in the light of Resurrection, these can be signs of God's redeeming power at work in the world.

Living with this sense of Resurrection under-pinning daily life is a ready reminder that there is always something beyond the present; that endings are not to be feared or difficulties avoided and that the restorative and transforming love of God is ever-present and ever-active.

At Offenham School, we use a Restorative Approach to behaviour and learning as an outworking of God's transformative love.

A Restorative Approach brings those harmed by conflict, and those responsible for the harm, into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward. As a result, our community is enabled live and learn well together.

Restorative Approaches are based on the following:

Respect - for everyone by listening to one another

Responsibility - taking responsibility for actions

Repair – developing the skills and resources to identify solutions that repair wrong doings, aim to solve the problem and make sure behaviours are not repeated

How does it work...?

What does it look like...?

Every day at Offenham School we aim to encourage one another to be the best that we can be; to build one another up and develop strong relationships, maintain them and repair them when things go wrong. Here are some examples of what we do:

Restorative Rules/Norms: We regularly take time to think about how to work best in class, how we behave around school and towards one another at playtime and during work time. We make some rules about how we want to work and act and remind ourselves of them as we go through the year.

Restorative Language: Restorative language is calm, respectful and fair and seeks to bring about justice for all. Adults seek to demonstrate this language and would encourage children to do so also.

Restorative Discussion: If something goes wrong at school your child may be involved in a discussion about the incident. This is a way of sorting out conflict by getting everybody involved to discuss:

- What happened?
- Who has been affected?
- What everyone was thinking at the time and what they think now?
- What needs to be done to put it right?
- What do we need to agree so it doesn't happen again?

What are the benefits of a restorative discussion?

This type of discussion gives pupils opportunities to talk, to listen to others and to be listened to in a non-judgemental and fair way.

If someone has upset you, you can:

- Have your say
- Ask any questions - like why me?
- Explain what you think about what has happened
- Receive an apology
- Reassurance that the behaviour will not happen again

If you have upset someone, you can:

- Put things right
- Apologise
- Explain any misunderstandings
- Resolve any remaining resentment
- Time to work things out
- Work out how not to make the same mistake

Working in this way helps by...

- Providing safe environments and opportunities to discuss issues
- Encouraging appropriate behavioural changes
- Engaging people with dignity and respect
- Inviting people to talk about how they 'think' and 'feel'
- Promoting learning about and acceptance of responsibility
- Leading to shared understanding
- Developing emotional intelligence through listening and acknowledging

❖ **Restorative Approaches allow schools to become solution focused; concentrate on teaching, where children are supported to change inappropriate behaviour in a way that is fair and safe for everyone.**

❖ **Restorative Approaches allow people to develop strong conflict resolution skills, learn about their own behaviour and its effect on others.**

- ❖ **Restorative Approaches encourage people to recognise harm caused and resolve their own conflicts in an appropriate and supportive way.**