

What is a Restorative School?

A restorative school takes a new look at traditional processes of educating:

- Appreciation, alternative possibilities and hope take central ground, displacing judgement, deficit and failure.
- The school addresses issues rather than punishing students.
- Teachers see themselves as relating with students, not as authorities over them.
- When discipline offences occur, the focus is on restoring order through restoring relationships rather than through authority.
- The mana of individual students is maintained and nurtured.
- People speak respectfully of one another, (including about students and their families). Recognising that all families want success for their children.
- Teachers and students look forward to the challenges they meet at school.
- The voice of every student is heard rather than being drowned out by the noise of the loudest or weightiest.

A restorative school **seeks excellence in respectful relationships** by valuing everyone in the school community.

A restorative school **has hospitable practices** because:

- The communities of care around the school and its students become very visible.
- Students learn that living in a complex community is more than just possible – it can be enjoyable.
- There are fewer referrals for bad behaviour

Peace Breaks Out

[Restorative solutions for schools, an introductory resource book. Jude Moxon, Catherine Skudder and Jim Peters. *Essential Resources Educational Publishers Limited. 2006*]