



# Managing Challenging Behaviour through a Restorative Approach

## Restorative approaches

A restorative approach in schools helps develop a healthier learning environment, where children and young people take responsibility over their own behaviour and learning. Restorative approaches enable those who have been harmed to convey the impact of the harm to those responsible, and for those responsible to acknowledge this impact and take steps to put it right.

Restorative approaches in schools focus on strengthening and repairing relationships, listening with empathy, valuing young people's opinions and being curious about what has happened. In avoiding attributing blame but encouraging insight and taking responsibility for their actions, young people are supported to develop pro-social behaviour to repair harm and develop positive relationships.

Restorative approaches aim to:

- develop emotional literacy, responsibility and empathy
- create a more positive learning environment with better attendance, and fewer behaviour incidents
- raise children and young people's awareness of the impact of their choices on others
- reduce the number of exclusions and help young people remain in mainstream education

To be effective, restorative approaches must be in place across the school. This means all pupils; staff (including non-teaching staff), management and the wider school community must understand what acting restoratively means and how they can do it.

Key area of need

Children and young people with emotional and social needs who often are involved in misunderstandings or conflicts with their peers or the adults supporting them.

Some of the behaviour interventions and strategies we use include: