Fact sheet
Understanding restorative practices and PBL

What is restorative justice?

- A philosophy or perspective
- General overarching principles: repairing harm, accountability, reducing risk, stakeholder involvement, community partnership

What are restorative practices?

- Strategies which are used to restore positive relationships and solve interpersonal issues.
- Examples of restorative practices include problem-solving conversations and separating the behaviour from the person.

Goals of restorative practices in schools

- ✔ Hold students accountable for their actions through repairing harm and making amends
- ✔ Include persons who have harmed or been harmed, and their surrounding community in restorative responses to school misconduct
- ✔ Reengage students at risk of academic failure and juvenile justice system entry through dialogue-driven, restorative responses to school misbehaviour
- ✔ Establish school-based practices such as circles, conferencing, peer mediation, accountability boards

PBL

PBL helps schools to develop a safe, respectful and productive learning environment by establishing a positive school climate where students and adults have strong, positive relationships and students understand what is expected of them as learners at school.

PBL provides a framework for schools to nurture students by providing them with positive behavioural supports and meaningful opportunities for improving social and emotional skills, such as recognising and managing emotions, developing caring and concern for others, making responsible decisions, establishing positive relationships and handling challenging situations in a constructive way.

In PBL schools, principals, school leaders and staff members work together to establish and maintain a positive school climate. All adults communicate, teach, and model the positive behaviours they expect students to exhibit in the classroom and in other parts of the school throughout the day. By setting expectations, teaching students to meet those expectations, and regularly reinforcing appropriate behaviours, schools see fewer incidents of inappropriate behaviour and more time spent learning.

Key practices to teach and reinforce expected behaviours

Set expectations for positive behaviour in collaboration with the school community

- Establish predictable routines for students
- Post expectations for positive behaviour throughout the school
- Regularly communicate high expectations for student success demonstrating positive behaviour

Teach positive behaviour

- Build positive relationships with students
- Model positive behaviour for students
- Explicitly teach students how they can best demonstrate positive behaviour and follow expected routines. For example, specify expected behaviour while learning in the classroom, moving on walkways, eating in designated areas, entering the building, or leaving at dismissal
- Practise expected behaviour with students in all settings

Reinforce positive behaviour

- Regularly review expectations for positive behaviour, reteaching and allowing practice as needed
- Provide frequent feedback to students on their behaviour, both appropriate and inappropriate, so they know if and how they are meeting the school's expectations
- Acknowledge students for demonstrating positive behaviour, especially when it is a new behaviour for that student

Responding to problem behaviour

Correct behaviour calmly and in a manner that demonstrates that the student is safe and supported at school

View inappropriate behaviour as an instructional opportunity; reteach expectations and allow the student to practise expected behaviour

Use consequences that promote student self-reflection: What harm was caused? What can be done to correct the harm? Why did the student do what they did? What could they have done differently? What help does the student need and from whom to do something differently next time?

Communicate the importance of instructional time; correct student behaviour and return them to the instructional setting as quickly as possible

Document the use of corrective consequences to track success

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)