

## RESTORATIVE CIRCLES

To participate in a circle gives a sense of belonging. In the circle, everyone can see everyone else and takes turns in speaking, and what everyone says, everyone can hear. To meet and communicate in a circle increases the possibility for positive, safe relationships and a psychosocial atmosphere best described as a collective attention - a sense of 'we'.

*Using Restorative Circles in Schools by Berit Follestad and Nina Wroldsen*



## TYPES OF CIRCLES

### Go-Around

In sequence, high participation, general topics, responding to prompts, introductions

### Popcorn Circle

Less structured, no particular order, participation encouraged but not mandatory, choice to speak

### Highly Structured

Formal, tightly facilitated and problem solving

# TRAINING & SUPPORT

The Oide Primary Wellbeing Team offer Sustained Support in the area of Restorative Practices.

### Format

4 x 2 hour training sessions. It can be facilitated with a self-selected group of up to 18 staff members. A participant learning booklet supports engagement beyond the professional learning experiences.

### Please note:

If a school has not previously completed the 'Introduction to Restorative Practice' session for all staff an additional 2 hour session is required.

## OIDE RESOURCES

The following resources are available for download on our website:

- Restorative Practice Posters
- Restorative Practice Question Cards
- Restorative Practice Using Circles Resources
- Link to Childhood Development Initiative Tallaght Website - Restorative Practice Resources and Supports
- Link to Restorative Practice Ireland Website

<https://oide.ie/primary/home/wellbeing/spe/resources/>



# Oide

## An Overview of Restorative Practices

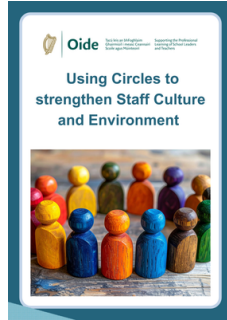
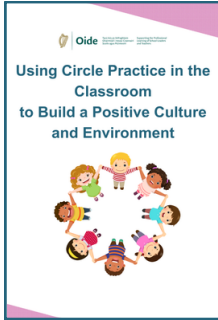
### WHAT IS RP?

Restorative Practice is a philosophy, a social science. It is a way of 'being'. Restorative Practice is based primarily on a set of core values and the principles of Fairness, Inclusivity, Engagement, Accountability and Collaboration. It is a reactive response to wrong-doing and is equally as proactive. It focuses on the explicit promotion and enhancement of particular skills such as the ability to empathise and problem solve. This practice allows for building trust between and with people. It provides a structured approach in the form of a scaffold, which helps build, maintain and sustain positive relationships and to prevent escalation of further conflict.

## THE RESTORATIVE APPROACH



# ENHANCING PRACTICE: DISCOVER OUR LATEST RESOURCES



These resources introduce Circle Practice as a restorative and relational approach to strengthening both classroom communities and staff cultures. They outline how structured circles can be used to build trust, inclusion and shared responsibility; reinforce agreed norms and values; support learning and professional collaboration; and respond constructively to challenges or tensions. With practical guidance on different types of circles and how to plan and facilitate them effectively, the resources support schools in creating safe, respectful environments where every voice is heard and positive relationships can flourish among students and staff alike.

Click on the images to access or visit our [website](#)

## VALUES

Values are often described as our anchor and our guide.

Think about the values that are important to you. Can you identify three values that are most important for you?

Are these values appropriate to your needs either personally or professionally?

When do I most find myself challenged to pursue my values in my work?

Restorative Practices give us the skills to bring these values to life in a conscious and consistent manner.

Taking a restorative approach can bridge the gap between what we want to do and what we actually do in practice.

### RESTORATIVE PRACTICE VALUES

#### Values

Accountability	Curiosity	Inclusion	Safety
Appreciation	Democracy	Integrity	Teamwork
Collaboration	Determination	Justice	Trust
Commitment	Diligence	Kindness	Wisdom
Communication	Equality	Knowledge	
Connection	Fairness	Loyalty	
Consistency	Gratitude	Perseverance	
Courage	Honesty	Problem-solving	
Creativity	Humour	Respect	



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Podcast Series: [Circles of Connection: Stories from Ireland](#)

Childhood Development Initiative podcasts features people young and old from all over Ireland talking about how using these RP skills helps them improve relationships and outcomes in their families, workplaces, and communities.

[5th & 6<sup>th</sup> Class: Wellbeing with Restorative Practice](#)

Exploring the confident 'Power Stance' to practising positive self-talk, children will discover practical techniques to boost their confidence and navigate social challenges. They'll learn indigenous wisdom about communication, explore conflict resolution through restorative questions, and understand how their actions and words can positively impact their world.



**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...**  
Can RP work for us?  
What are the opportunities?  
What are the challenges?



Oide

Taca Iola an BhFioghlaim  
Chomhairle Iascaigh Ceathrú  
Scoláirí agus Múinteoirí

Supporting the Professional  
Learning of School Leaders  
and Teachers