RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

At Kerrimuir we are continuing to build on our use of Restorative Practices to solve issues that arise between our students. Teachers use their “chat cards” to help our children to:

- Try to see situations from other people’s point of view
- Pay closer attention to what people say to them and show that they are actively listening
- Talk to others without sarcasm or putdowns
- Express their feelings more often
- Offer support to other students through friendship

Benefits of using this approach have been to:

- Make Kerrimuir a safer, happier place where your children’s talents can be recognised and rewarded
- Raise attendance
- Reduce bullying
- Provide greater opportunities for support and mediation when conflicts occur

“Circle Time” continues to be an important part of our classroom programs. It is a program that provides a regular forum for the children to ‘think and talk’ about themselves and others. This enhances speaking and listening skills while developing “emotional literacy”. The children sit in a circle, either on chairs or on the floor, encouraging group learning and cooperation.

“Circle Time” is not a counselling strategy, but a time when everyone can have a turn. A regular time is being set aside for games and activities designed to increase:

- Understanding and valuing myself
- Understanding and valuing others
- Having positive relationships with others

We are encouraging the use of Circle Time to help our students to build positive and cooperative relationships with each other.