

Restorative Justice



Information for Students

We all make mistakes. Sometimes we even make decisions that hurt others. When this happens, what's most important is that you reflect on your actions, on how they affected others, and on what you can do to make amends. This is the foundation of restorative justice.

What is restorative justice?

Restorative justice focuses on accountability and making amends for a wrongdoing, rather than on a punishment such as detention, suspension, or expulsion. The goal of restorative justice is to acknowledge the harm caused by one's actions and to make a plan to repair it.

Restorative justice helps you reflect on your actions, why you made the choices you made, and how you can do better in the future.

Examples of restorative justice

Instead of detention or suspension, these students were given tasks to help them reflect on their actions and repair any damage they caused.

- ▶ **Corinne spread a rumor about a classmate online.** *After hearing from her classmate how these rumors made her feel, Corinne was tasked with gathering information and statistics about the harm cyberbullying causes.*
- ▶ **Jay and Thomas got into a fight between classes.** *They were required to develop a presentation on the importance of using words rather than violence to solve problems.*

Think about it

Restorative justice involves thinking about what happened, why it happened, and who was affected.

Explain what happened. _____

How and why did this happen? _____

Who was affected, and what harm did you cause?

Restorative justice is not only about understanding what you did wrong; it's also about making a plan to repair any damage you caused.

How can you repair the harm you caused? _____

What did this experience teach you? _____



VIDEO

For tips and advice on making responsible decisions, watch this video.