

## OUR RESTORATIVE APPROACH

The restorative approach is based on the belief that the people best placed to resolve a conflict or a problem are the people directly involved, and that imposed solutions are less effective, less educative and possibly less likely to be honoured. In order to engage in a restorative approach to conflict and challenging behaviour, staff and children need certain attitudes and skills. Staff and children at St Edmund's have undergone training to develop both restorative skills and attitudes.

In our school we work to identify a variety of applications of these skills to meet the needs of the whole school community. The ultimate aim in our school is to build a strong, mutually respectful, safe and inclusive school community in which everyone feels valued and heard.

The advantages of restorative approaches in our school setting include:

- A safer, more caring environment
- A more effective teaching and learning environment
- A greater commitment by everyone to taking the time to listen to one another
- A reduction in bullying and other interpersonal conflicts
- Reductions in fixed term and permanent exclusions
- A greater confidence in the staff team to deal with challenging situations
- An increased belief in the ability of young people to take responsibility for their choices, and more people giving them opportunities to do so.

We have a dedicated group of children in the juniors who work as **Peer Mediators**. All of these children have been trained by an accredited provider to give them the skills and knowledge that help children resolve their conflicts in school. This program promotes restorative justice and allows children to come together in a calm and non-judgemental atmosphere. The Peer Mediators work hard to create harmony throughout our school both at playtimes and in the classroom.

