Dear Parents/Carers

At St. Thomas’ CE we have adopted Restorative Approaches as a way of dealing with conflict between children. Restorative practise has been developed with one specific goal in mind; to support and facilitate the building of healthy relationships, and to see different perspectives when dealing with an issue. It focuses around simple questions which you can see in the attached booklet.

All staff have been trained and are now familiar with this line of enquiry; these questions form the basis of resolving issues. The children are able to repair harm caused, by using the questions, both by themselves and with staff support.

We are currently training some Year Five children to become ‘Restorative Champions’: they will be on hand in the playground for children to turn to for support and for resolution to a problem. A group of Year One children will receive training in the summer term to ready them for being Restorative Champions in Year 2 from September.

In the Reception classes we have ‘Restorative Stars’ who are highly successful in resolving issues in their own classroom.

In addition, we regularly hold assemblies and circle time to develop children’s emotional literacy, empathy and co-operation.

This sits within our overall behaviour management strategies with the aim of helping children understand the effects their behaviour can have on others. There is, however, still the need for consequences following poor behaviour.

Restorative Approaches should not be regarded as a ‘soft option.’ For many children this approach will be very challenging as it will face them with the impact of their behaviour both on the person they upset and on themselves.

The enclosed brochure explains a little more about restorative approaches and how we use it in school.

If you would like any further information on restorative approaches please contact your child’s teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E. Boardman

Senior Learning Mentor