

Restore Project Tool Kit



Co-funded by the
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Tool 5: Pupil Mentor Training

The training of students / pupils is in keeping with the Key Elements of the restorative approach.

By engaging the pupils / students in the approach it clearly demonstrates that the staff are working 'with' the pupils / students, that 'fair process' is recognised and used throughout, the use of the appropriate questions and language are universally understood and everyone encourages the 'free expression of emotions'.

The use of RP Pupil Mentors is an important aspect of the successful implementation of restorative practices and greatly enhanced the speed at which the organisation moves down the restorative path.

Contents:

Course Agenda – Example (Hamp Academy)

Example of Pupil / student Implementation Plan

Pupil Address to whole school re Bullying and RP - Script

Pupil Address to whole school re Bullying and RP - PowerPoint



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Address to the school assembly of Ysgol Dewi Sant, with no staff present, prepared and delivered by Head Girl and Head boy, on Monday 30th January 2017.

“In this assembly we are going to be talking to you about a scheme entitled ‘RESPECT’, which is an initiative designed to not only reduce bullying in our school but to fully eradicate it.

Most people do not realise how big of a problem bullying is. Bullying is so common in our lives that we don’t even realise that it’s happening when it does. We believe it to be something normal, when it’s not. Not even close.

If you saw bullying, what would you do to stop it? Would you stand by and let it happen, take part in it or try to stop it? Not many students think about this and that’s part of the problem.

Schools have long been aware of their responsibility to promote the wellbeing of their students. However, bullying remains a damaging obstruction to the happiness, wellbeing, achievement and life-chances of students.

David Lloyd, Chair of Governors, has been developing an anti-bullying initiative in Ysgol Dewi Sant for 3 years. It is now time to introduce it, making us the first school ever to be completely bully free.

It is interesting to note that in this school we all raise money for children across the world we will never meet. Yet here at school we are sometimes prone to overlook bullying.

Now, let’s be honest, the bullying here is at a low level already. We are aware, however, that low levels of bullying do take place. We aim to stop that.

Bullying destroys the lives of both the victim and the bully. If somebody is so socially detached that they believe bullying and picking on others is okay then just imagine how they’re going to get on when they enter the real world.

This initiative is designed to establish a non-tolerance of bullying, which will create a new culture in our school.

A few weeks ago, the school council, including ourselves, attended a restorative practice workshop delivered by the International Institute of Restorative Practice. Restorative practice is, by definition, the gaining of a thorough understanding of restorative concepts, learning effective strategies for managing different aspects of bullying behaviour in the schools and outside and helping young people take greater responsibility for their actions.

Restorative practice will be introduced through the pupils by providing a way of resolving broken relations and restoring friendships. The practice will develop a shared environment of trust, respect, and dignity.

How will this work?

Let's say for instance, a year 7 student is carrying a large number of books through the corridor and someone in year 9 deliberately sticks a foot out, tripping them up, making them smash their face. Then they get laughed at. Restorative practice would have the two people come together to discuss what happened, why it happened with a view to ultimately resolving their differences.

Restorative approaches enable those who have been harmed to convey the impact of the harm to those responsible and for those responsible to acknowledge this impact and take steps to put it right.

Restorative approaches refer to a range of methods and strategies which can be used both to prevent relationship-damaging incidents from happening and to resolve them if they do happen.

Becoming a restorative school has many benefits, including increased attendance, reduced exclusions and improved achievement.

A report published by the Department for Education gave whole-school restorative approaches the highest rating of effectiveness at preventing bullying, with a survey of schools showing 97% rated restorative approaches as effective.

In Barnet, an evaluation by the local authority found a reduction in exclusions of 51% in restorative justice trained schools. They also found increased confidence among school staff to deal with bullying and conflicts in the school.

Pembroke Dock Community School is used as an example where restorative practice resolves conflict issues both in and out of class.

Prendergast School has rights ambassadors and everyone has a moral responsibility to demonstrate school values. If they can do it, so can we.

We would like to invite you to be the very first students to develop this programme.

If you accept this challenge you will help to make this school completely bully free. No student deserves to be bullied and after all, bullied students cannot learn.

This practice is just as important as the academic achievements of the school. Every student deserves to be educated and every student deserves to be happy.

If you would like to ask any questions on anything included in this assembly, please stay in the hall and the school council will stay with us to answer your queries.

We can make this school a better place by agreeing to be part of the change we want to see.

Today we pledge to make this change, a change that will have a huge impact on everyone here and on all future students of Ysgol Dewi Sant. Thank you for listening so carefully."

Ysgol Dewi Sant and the RESPECT project wish to thank the sponsors of this ground-breaking initiative. Their faith and generosity has made it possible:

Russell Harris, Rhodri Price Lewis, Bill Preece, Peter Trier, Jerome Flynn, Bethan Price, Len Cotton, Ian Griffiths, Jeremy Barton, Matthew James, CK Supermarket and Anon.

‘RESPECT’

“The only thing necessary for the **triumph of evil** is for good men to do nothing” - Edmund Burke

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcgAF8GcBlw>



“A negative mind will never give you a positive life”

“Bullying destroys the lives of both the victim and the bully”

“If someone is trying to drag you down it is only because they are below you”

Restorative Practice

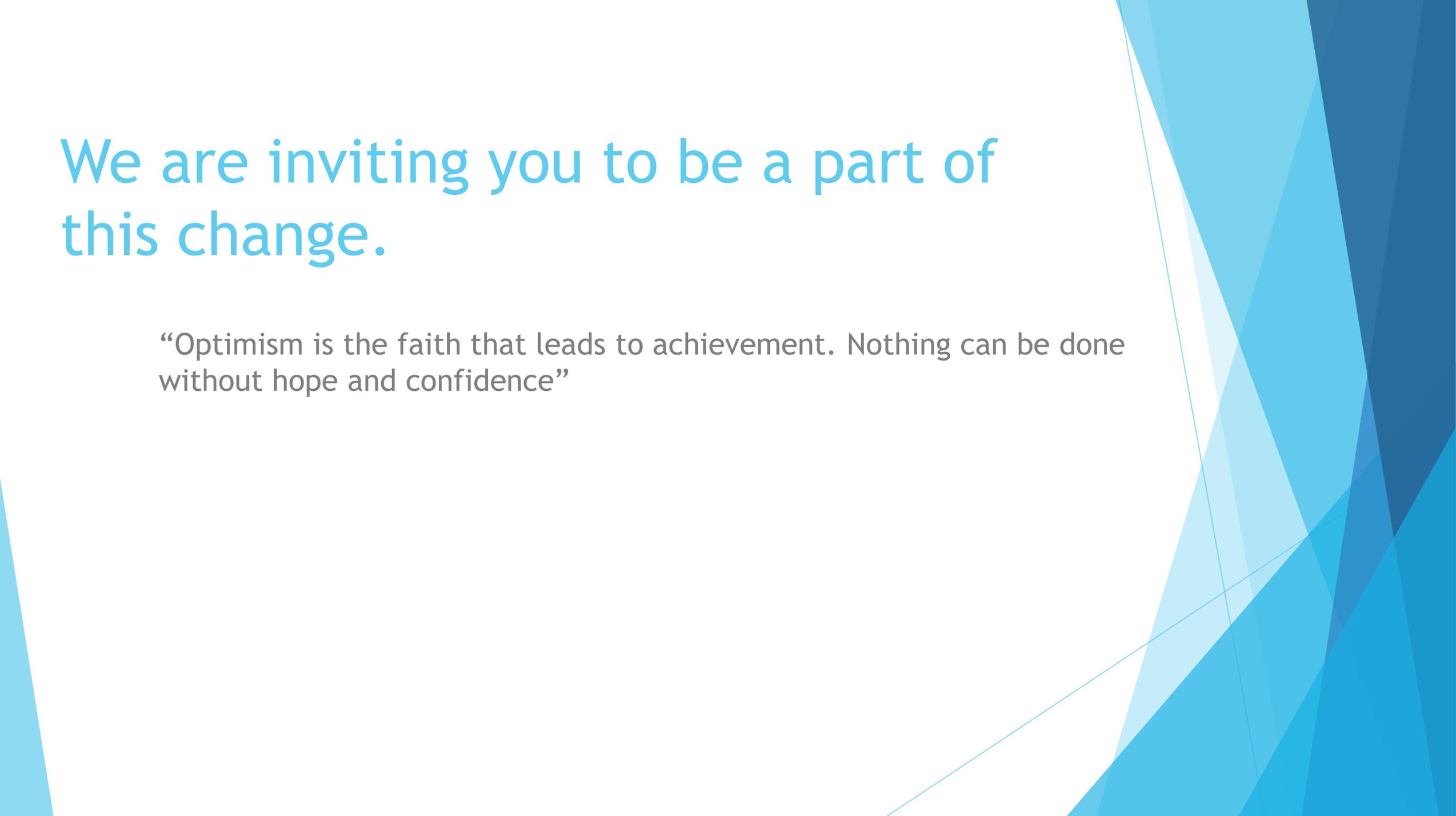


The fundamental premise of restorative practices is that people are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes when those in authority do things **WITH** them, rather than **TO** them for **FOR** them.

— Ted Wachtel, *International Institute for Restorative Practices*



PRENDERGAST
LADYWELL SCHOOL

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The overall composition is clean and modern, with the text elements placed on a white background that contrasts with the blue graphics.

We are inviting you to be a part of this change.

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence”

Thank you for listening.
Please feel free to stay behind
if you want to ask any
questions in confidence.