



Implementing Restorative Practice in Schools: A Practical Guide to Transforming School Communities

By Margaret Thorsborne, Peta Blood

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Restorative practice is a proven approach to discipline in schools that favours relationships over retribution, and has been shown to improve behaviour and enhance teaching and learning outcomes. However, in order for it to work, restorative practice needs a relational school culture.

Implementing Restorative Practice in Schools explains what has to happen in a school in order for it to become truly restorative. Section 1 explains the potential of restorative practice in schools, describing the positive outcomes for students and teachers. It also outlines the measures that need to be in place in order to embed restorative practice. Section 2 examines the process of understanding and managing change, providing realistic and pragmatic guidance on the practical and emotional barriers that may be encountered. Finally, Section 3 provides in eight practical steps, strategic guidance for achieving a restorative culture that sticks.

Featuring useful pro formas and templates, this book will be an indispensable guide for educators, administrators and school leaders in mainstream and specialist settings.

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Editorial Review

Review

This book is an inspiration. It is the natural successor to the first generation of books that set the scene by explaining what restorative practice looks like in a school setting. The book addresses the challenge many educators face after the initial excitement of their first restorative skills training course -- how to spread the insights and the practice across their school community? Drawing on their wealth of experience, Marg Thorsborne and Peta Blood explain what the pitfalls are likely to be, and how to overcome them. They bring insights from the field of change management which are invaluable, and they offer case studies from schools all over the world to give weight to their message. I have no doubt that this book will become the core text for all those leading or supporting schools on their restorative journey. I can hardly wait to make use of the numerous practical ideas and resources that are provided with colleagues in the field. -- Belinda Hopkins, Director, Transforming Conflict, National Centre for Restorative Approaches in Education, UK Marg and Peta have done a huge favour to schools by distilling their years of training, research, reflection and leadership into this eminently practical and inspirational book. Wherever you are on your restorative school journey, this book will help. -- from the foreword by Graham Robb, a former secondary school headteacher who works in education and youth justice. He is Chair of the Restorative Justice Council in the UK We know children need caring relationships, healthy communities and a way to fix their mistakes, but how do we get everyone in the school community building relationships and community, and offering help, all at the same time? Blood and Thorsborne have gathered the research on implementation, molded it into useful insights and provided practical direction in this clear and helpful book -- a book every school administrator should read. To be committed to school change, one has to first understand change. Using the insights of change theorists and their own pioneering experiences, Marg and Peta provide that essential understanding. -- Nancy Riestenberg, School Climate Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education, USA Teaching young people and staff (and indeed parents/carers) to forgive each other and resolve problems is one of the most important jobs a school can do. Emotional intelligence is not an old-fashioned idea -- it is essential for well-being, and we need to make our students resilient and help them form healthy relationships. This book is a practical guide to changing the ethos or climate of a school and getting people to think about and change their behaviour. It gets us away from blame and negative attitudes, showing us a positive way forward. I can recommend this book to head teachers, teachers and all staff who support young people and who are interested in improving their own practice. This book will help them in that quest. I would also recommend this book to any parents/carers who are finding parenting difficult to manage. -- Kenny Frederick, Principal, George Green's School, London, UK

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I have no doubt that this book will become the core text for all those leading or supporting schools on their restorative journey. I can hardly wait to make use of the numerous practical ideas and resources that are

provided with colleagues in the field.

(Belinda Hopkins, Director, Transforming Conflict, National Centre for Restorative Approaches in Education, UK)

Marg and Peta have done a huge favour to schools by distilling their years of training, research, reflection and leadership into this eminently practical and inspirational book. Wherever you are on your restorative school journey, this book will help. (from the foreword by Graham Robb, a former secondary school headteacher who works in education and youth justice. He is Chair of the Restorative Justice Council in the UK)

We know children need caring relationships, healthy communities and a way to fix their mistakes, but how do we get everyone in the school community building relationships and community, and offering help, all at the same time? Blood and Thorsborne have gathered the research on implementation, molded it into useful insights and provided practical direction in this clear and helpful book -- a book every school administrator should read. To be committed to school change, one has to first understand change. Using the insights of change theorists and their own pioneering experiences, Marg and Peta provide that essential understanding. (Nancy Riestenberg, School Climate Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education, USA)

Teaching young people and staff (and indeed parents/carers) to forgive each other and resolve problems is one of the most important jobs a school can do. Emotional intelligence is not an old-fashioned idea -- it is essential for well-being, and we need to make our students resilient and help them form healthy relationships. This book is a practical guide to changing the ethos or climate of a school and getting people to think about and change their behaviour. It gets us away from blame and negative attitudes, showing us a positive way forward. I can recommend this book to head teachers, teachers and all staff who support young people and who are interested in improving their own practice. This book will help them in that quest. I would also recommend this book to any parents/carers who are finding parenting difficult to manage. (Kenny Frederick, Principal, George Green's School, London, UK)

About the Author

Margaret Thorsborne is the Managing Director of Transformative Justice Australia (Queensland) and Thorsborne and Associates in London, UK, a company committed to improving the way people relate to each other in the workplace, schools and other communities. She lives on the Sunshine Coast in Australia.

Peta Blood is the Managing Director of Circle Speak, a company committed to making a difference in workplaces, communities and schools. She lives in Sydney Australia. Both authors have a long history in the implementation of restorative practice in schools, both as pioneers, trainers, practitioners and authors.

Together they co-founded Restorative Practices International (RPI), the world's first international membership organization for restorative practitioners.

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