



# RESTORATIVE PRACTICES POLICY

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## Rationale

Aquinas College endeavours to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for all students and to raise awareness of what makes students resilient. Education in schools is largely about relationships, which can often develop into conflicts which require resolution, forgiveness and healing. Restorative Practices help students learn from their mistakes and reconcile and resolve problems with others.

## Aim

Aquinas College is a positive learning environment in which all staff assumes responsibility for student welfare, endeavouring to provide successful experiences for all students. The aim of this initiative is for Aquinas College to develop an understanding of Restorative Practices and learn skills for use in the College. It is hoped that consistent use of Restorative Practices at the College will change attitudes and represent a philosophical shift in thinking about students and problem behaviours away from the use of punishment, to the management of situations using a restorative approach.

## Implementation

Restorative Practices is a whole College approach to promoting resilience and aims to contribute to the building of positive relationships within all. It is focused on helping the students become aware of the impact of their behaviour on others through personal accountability and learning from a conflict situation. An important component of Restorative Practices is the focus on restoring relationships after harm has been done.

Staff will be supported with Professional Learning advice and strategies to consider when a relationship has been affected due to conflict. A restorative intervention encourages the student to speak. They face and listen to those who have been affected by their inappropriate behaviour and are encouraged to respond to a variety of affective questions e.g.

- What happened?
- How did you act in this situation?
- How were others affected?
- What needs to happen to make things right?

They then decide how to repair the harm and make a commitment at this point to do so. The student is then held accountable to this decision.