



LOYOLA COLLEGE

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES POLICY

Intended audience	Loyola College Community
Author	DOWAL - Development of Wellbeing at Loyola
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PREAMBLE

As a Catholic co-educational College, guided by the motto Justice, Mercy, Faith, Loyola College endeavours to provide for each member of our community the experience of high quality interpersonal relationships of care and support. From time to time in any community, relationships can be harmed in various ways and to varying degrees. It is therefore essential that Loyola College is a community that promotes the resolution of conflicts and the restoration of relationships between community members.

Restorative Practices at Loyola College provides a framework based on the belief that when relationships are harmed we must work with the students, teachers and parents involved to restore the relationships. The philosophy underpinning Restorative Practices is a commitment to inclusiveness, thus making every attempt to maintain connectedness for all members of the College Community.

Restorative Practices embraces a discipline that encompasses clear expectations, limits and consequences, responsibility and accountability for one's actions and a high degree of support and nurturing. We view quality relationships as pivotal to authentic teaching and learning, and believe that the relationship between the student, staff member, parent / guardian is paramount.

DEFINITION

Restorative Practices: Restorative Practices provides a focus on developing positive relationships between all members of the school community, as well as opportunities for people to take responsibility for their behaviours, the impact of those behaviours have on others, and their learning.

This requires that staff members actively create the environment where students may experience situations that develop their emotional and social capacity in order to support and assist them in taking responsibility for their behaviour and learning.

Restorative Practices creates a context which enables students to learn from their mistakes, reconcile their differences, resolve problems with others and effectively address a wide variety of wrongdoings undertaken within the College community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

At Loyola College, Restorative Practices:

- Acknowledges that the responsibility to act swiftly and justly is expected of all members of the College community;
- Seeks, celebrates and affirms the intrinsic dignity of each human person;
- Recognizes that quality relationships are fundamental to effective learning and genuine pastoral care;
- Ensures Gospel values are expressed in structures, procedures and practices of the College and its community.

When a behaviour or action of a student is deemed to have caused harm, a range of consequences will be sanctioned. At all times the action and the consequence will be viewed and explained as an opportunity for reflection and growth on the part of the student. The aim is to assist the student to make the necessary changes to facilitate his or her wellbeing at the College for the benefit of all, via the use of internal and external resources.

There are a range of restorative practices that aim to bring about resolution, repair damaged relationships and see a new way forward. They can be seen along a continuum from the informal through to the very formal.

Essentially, Restorative Practices aims to:

- Involve all who participate to have a sense of dignity, fairness and justice;
- Allow students to gain a greater insight into the impact of their behaviours on others;
- Provide opportunities for healing and repairing the damaged relationships;
- Ensure a sense of community is heightened when students, teachers, and parents are equally valued in the restorative process.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Policy 2.26 - Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools (CEM)
Loyola College Restorative Practices Procedural Document
Loyola College Respectful Student Relationships Policy
Marist Youth Care Restorative Practices Manual