



Wittersham Church of England Primary School



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Headteacher: Mrs Stella Coulson

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to share information about the restorative approaches we are developing here at Wittersham Church of England Primary School. As part of our ongoing work to strengthen relationships, support emotional wellbeing, and help children understand the impact of their actions, we will be embedding restorative practices across the school during this academic year.

Our journey began in April 2025, when we introduced community circles across the school. Community circles are short, structured sessions where children sit together in a circle and take turns responding to a shared prompt or question. These sessions help build trust, develop listening skills, and give every child a voice. They also encourage children to reflect on feelings, relationships, and experiences in a safe and supportive environment. Community circles have quickly become an important part of our approach to strengthening connection and communication across the school.

Last week, all staff took part in further training sessions to deepen our work on restorative practice. These sessions helped us develop a shared understanding of how restorative approaches can support children in managing conflict, building empathy, and repairing relationships.

A key element of the restorative approach is the use of five core questions, which guide conversations when things go wrong:

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking and feeling at the time?
3. What have you thought about since?
4. What has been the impact on you and on others?
5. What needs to happen to make things right?

These questions encourage children to slow down, reflect honestly, consider how their actions affect others, and take responsibility for finding a resolution. Staff will use these prompts consistently to support pupils in developing empathy, self-regulation, and constructive problem-solving skills.

You may also find these five questions helpful to use at home. All staff members have these questions displayed on their lanyards so that we can maintain a consistent approach across the school when managing any incidents that arise. Working together in this way will help children experience the same language, expectations, and calm support both in school and at home.

As we move through the academic year, we will continue to strengthen our use of restorative conversations in daily school life, using them in class groups, small groups, and individual discussions when appropriate. Our aim is to build a shared, school-wide approach that strengthens relationships and supports a calm, respectful environment where every child feels listened to and understood.

If you have any questions about restorative practices or would like to know more about how we will use them in school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,
Stella Coulson

Headteacher
Wittersham Church of England School

Compassion Courage Cooperation

'On a voyage of discovery; learning and growing together in the light of God.'



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2024**