Restorative Circles and Conferences

Restorative circles are used to calmly discuss problems or disagreements. Every person in the circle is asked 'Restorative Questions' and has an opportunity to say what happened and how they feel. This is an excellent way to resolve conflict and repair any harm caused. Children have circles all of the time in school, amongst themselves, with staff or with one of our Restorative Buddies.

Circles are a huge part of Restorative Practice. We link circles with many parts of emotional literacy and expression. For example, children share their feelings in a circle, Restorative Circles are used to discuss problems and solutions, and recognising and understanding the feelings of others can be seen in people's faces, which are in fact quite circular.

Restorative Conferences are more structured circles used to manage more severe problems. Conferences include everyone involved including the victim, bystanders and sometimes the parents and carers of the children. It is an opportunity for everyone to express their feelings and look for a way forward to repair any harm caused. They are a very effective way of discussing problems and finding solutions together.