

Key Messages from children and young people about Restorative Justice (RJ)

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The information provided here is the result of several sessions with two groups of children from Drumchapel High school and one group of children and young people from the G15 Youth Group. The sessions were led by CYCJ's Participation Worker who used creative and fun activities to support the children to engage.

They were asked the questions below; where possible we've kept their language the same, and if there were any differences of opinion within / between the groups, this is also reflected. The purpose of these sessions (and this paper) is to provide current feedback from children and young people on Restorative Justice and how it should be carried out.



Would you want the option to take part in an RJ process?

“We think we would as it would help us to understand why the harm happened, and if we caused the harm, we might want to explain or apologise. **The main message is we want to be given the choice!**”

What type of person should facilitate?

“We think the person should be kind, fair, strong, can listen and is understanding. We need them to be able to keep everyone involved safe. We also want them to be able to hear difficult information and have some understanding of why people sometimes cause harm. We think your gender / age / ethnicity might matter to us, so we should be able to talk about this.”

Is it important to you that everyone involved has the choice if they would like to take part in the process ?

“**YES** we want both people to know they have rights and choices.”

Where should an RJ process take place?

“We want to feel safe and comfortable, so we would like it in a room with couches or chairs and a small table in the middle. We would like the option of food and a drink. We don't want the room to be too big but we would like the option of another space in case we need time out. It is important that people we might know can't walk by, or look in the windows; and we definitely don't want it in anyone's home.”



Who else should be involved? Should friends be there?

“It would depend on how hurt we were and who else was going to be involved. Most of us don't want friends there but we would like the option to have someone we know there that we find supportive.”

Should there be more than one face-to-face meeting?

“We would like this to be an option, and if it was needed we would like the same person to facilitate.”

Should the facilitator do a follow-up with you?

“We would like this as an option because we only want it if we feel it is needed.”



CYCJ would like to thank the pupils of Drumchapel High School and the young people at the G15 Youth Group for helping us to create these key messages

**For more on Restorative Justice visit:
www.cycj.org.uk or www.justtherightspace.org
Or email Pamela.i.Morrison@strath.ac.uk or yvette.odonnell@strath.ac.uk**