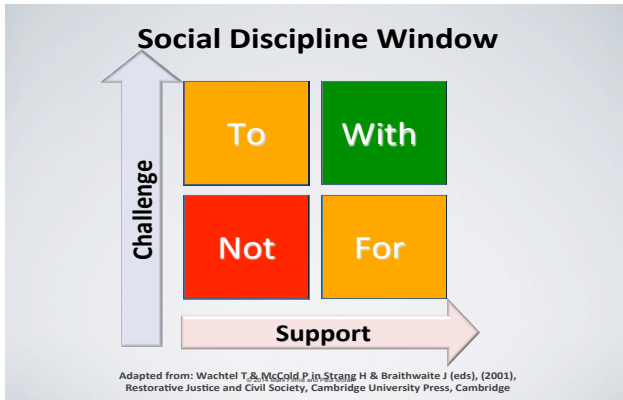


July's Check-Out theme this month is The **Social Discipline Window** one of the key themes of Restorative Approaches. The power is in working WITH people in a high support and high challenge way. Here are some of Mark Finnis' thoughts on the power of With' taken from his website.



The Power of With

As humans, we are hard wired to want to connect and to belong. Restorative Practice believes we need to be explicit in how we build these connections. We need to explicitly, create a sense of belonging, increase social and relational capital as well as repair harm and restore relationships when things go wrong.

High challenge, high support is one of the 'four ways of being' but it is the one that pays dividends when it comes to getting the best out of young people. In a nutshell, these four ways are:

- Doing things to others
- Doing things for others
- Doing things with others and let's not forget
- Not doing anything for others

Working with young people in a high challenge, high support manner means you are definitely doing things *with* them. You are not doing things *to* them and, and this is where many genuinely caring teachers fall down, neither are you doing things *for* them. And you are definitely not *not* doing anything either.

I think we have four choices, four ways of being, and the '**WITH**' box helps guide the way I act across school communities and in every other area of my life, be that in my leadership roles, with colleagues, with students, with families and also at home in my own relationships.

I like to think over the years I increasingly default to the '**WITH**' box when things aren't going well. If I do default to the '**TO**' or '**FOR**' box, I reflect on it and offer others an opportunity to come back to the '**WITH**' box with me. The '**WITH**' box is about getting alongside people, partnership, collaboration. It's about flattening the hierarchy and sharing the power. Ultimately it's about being restorative. If you would like to discuss this more, you can connect with me on twitter @markfinnis ,my email address is markfinnis@mac.com and my website is markfinnis.com

A year of Restorative Investment @ Vernon Park Primary

The story so far...

- *RA clearly highlighted in SDP & within all staff performance management goals at start of September 2015*
- *Whole staff INSET in October*
- *Weekly circle sessions, use of scaling in all classes & regular reflection on the social discipline window from staff and also with children in KS2.*
- *Regular termly staff meetings with Sarah Baggaley adding to learning & reflecting on progress & development of practice*

- Development of RA ambassadors within year 5
- Input into midday & TA teams throughout the year
- In July's staff meeting we reflected together on the 'so what' of our years focus on developing and embedding restorative approaches within school.

Here are some of our most notable comments & reflections:

Early Years - We feel there is a notable increase in this cohorts understanding of cause & affect of their actions. Children are much better at recognising their affect on others & taking responsibility to repair any harm. They have become experts at giving hugs.

KS1- As a team we felt there has been a definite increase in the development of our children's emotional literacy & listening skills. A wider number of children are presenting with increased confidence, sensing they are feeling more empowered to voice their thoughts & to challenge when things make them feel uncomfortable. There is a sense that the pupils are confident that their concerns will be resolved effectively.

KS2 - We are seeing a particularly strong improvement in this cohort's ability to work cooperatively & collaboratively together. There is also a clear-shared value of empathy amongst this group & explicit support and understanding for each other.

There were also several key case studies were children with high need have clearly found the consistently reliable restorative approach being used by all adults invaluable in helping them to learn from their challenging situations. This has led to some notably much improved outcomes for these young people.

We have also seen young people with significant personal issues requesting to have the option to share these concerns with peers Proactive, emotionally approaches from our young Family is all about.

The whole school focus has led to changes. Values are clearly & children; increased skill sets are apparent, with a clear vision grow further next year.



for advice in their next circle. protective, solutions focused people- that's what's Stockport

some significant key evident in behaviours of adults amongst staff team & children & desire & passion for this to

Well done to Claire & all your staff & children at Vernon Park - what a fab year.

July's think piece

July's quotes on 'working with'



- *'The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary'* – Vince Lombardi
- *'What you are will show in what you do'* Thomas A Edison
- *'Nothing will work unless you do.'* Maya Angelou
- *'All life demands struggle. Those who have everything given to them become lazy, selfish and insensitive to the new values of life. The very striving and hard work that we so constantly try to avoid is the major building block in the person we are today.'*
Pope Paul VI

RA:-What's going on in July!

- **July 3 Day RA training** 3 day training courses in Autumn 16 are virtually fully booked- there may be some slight adjustments but we will be looking to book in some new Spring & summer dates-look out for these for your future bookings.
- **RA Network Meeting on Thursday 21st July, 2.30-4.30pm at Broadstone Hall Primary**
For **ANYONE** with an interest in working restoratively (ie. you can know loads or nothing - all are welcome). It will be a celebration of all that's been achieved in Schools/settings in terms of RA-ness in Stockport this year, as well as plans for next year and an opportunity for people to share their own experiences and get inspired by hearing about how other schools/settings are doing things!

*This is what **Cath** is up to in July: My July will/has include/d:*

- really well attended and successful Circles workshop
- Impact report created (summarising positive outcomes from some of schools/settings we've worked in)
- Fairway staff training
- St Mark's ambassador training
- Stockport Family RA awards (best dress time)
- July 3 day (oversubscribed and including a waiting list)
- Kingsway
- RA Network
- Cheadle Catholic Infants' staff training
- Alex Park champs training
- Lots of planning for exciting developments in September!



*This is what **Sarah's** June/July diary looks like-Training sessions with:-*

- 1 DAY INSET St Philips & St Christopher's
- Half day INSET St Peters
- 3rd twilight session Hazel Grove Primary
- Romiley staff meeting
- 3rd Vernon Park staff meeting
- 1 day RA training with Mark Finnis @ Werneth
- RA champions completed at Ladybridge
- Rose Hill midday & RA champions combined training
- July 3 day training session



Jenny-:- jenny.curzon@stockport.gov.uk, 07800618609 | know I have been busy juggling school and secondment!

- I have been picking up the last of my meetings and enjoying visiting our lovely schools and visiting with colleagues
- Representing schools on the Digital by Design steering group
- Offering pieces of training and planning training for September
- Attending training and network groups
- Co-ordinating the Early Years working group
- Cascading information to colleagues
- Developing resources and toolkits
- Liaising with different groups around Stockport Family and Schools to help support the roll out of Team around the school

- Collating evidence from Showcase Schools- planning dates and schools for September

Team around the Schools. We have 2 Head teacher members on this team representing our schools; James Clark Dial Park, Andy Buckler Torkington, alongside Stuart Cuthill- HGGs, Suzanne Fox- Stockport Academy.

We also plan next academic year to offer each locality lead a snapshot of schools' understanding of RA & Stockport family, who are Showcase Schools or whether the school has RA Champions etc. This is to shortcut meetings, to avoid unnecessary preamble and to enable you to get to the heart of conversations around our schools .At July's PHC this was felt to be a positive move.



Have a great summer and we will be back in touch in September

Cheers from your Education RA team; enjoy your break!

Cath, Janette, Jenny & Sarah