



**Galilee**  
Catholic School

welcoming › respecting › constructing

4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear parents/caregivers,

### **Introducing Restorative Peer Mediators**

What is peer mediation?

Peer Mediation is the idea of skilling older students to help younger students in schools. Peer mediation programs increase a climate of care and cooperation in schoolyards. Peer mediation programs are not about passing adult care over to students. Peer mediator programs are about intentionally increasing awareness about the need we all have to take care of one another.

Peer mediators work with students to help fix problems and upsets by asking restorative questions. Peer mediators do not tell students what to do or give advice; they support younger children to find their own solutions which is an important part of building problem solving skills and resilience in our younger students.

What's in it for children?

It is good for well-being of young people to be asked to help others. Young people do better in environments that require them to contribute by helping others. Younger children feel safer when they see older children as caring people who have an interest in them.

What does it involve?

If a child has a problem during outside learning which they can't sort out, they can approach a peer mediator (an older child wearing a bright yellow vest, a badge and carrying a clip board). The peer mediator has a script to read to help the younger children sort out the problem. They are trained to listen, not to take sides and seek adult help if the situation requires. The peer mediators also record any conversations they do facilitate, and these records are passed on to the well-being coordinator who also checks in with peer mediators regularly.

As with all restorative practices in our school, the goal is to empower children to take responsibilities for their actions and to problem solve constructively. Peer mediation programs have proven to positively affect school climate and student well-being.

Regards,  
Kerri Gould  
Acting Deputy Principal