

Parent guide

Thank you for agreeing to attend this conference. It is important to remember that a restorative conference is not just an ordinary meeting – conferences are focused on finding out who has been affected by an event and in what ways, rather than focusing on blame. There is also a strong focus on people ‘putting it right’ if they have done harm to others.

Below are some simple guidelines that will help make this conference a really successful experience for everyone:

- Please be prepared to let the staff facilitator run the conference. They have been specially trained in this technique.
- Please be patient with the speaking order – parents are usually the last to speak. This gives parents the chance to hear the whole story before talking.
- Try to keep an open mind at all times. Your son or daughter may have only told you one side of the story.
- When it comes to your turn to speak, please have respect for others present at the conference – use language and behaviour that others will feel comfortable with.
- When you speak, please speak to the entire conference rather than just an individual – everyone needs to hear about experiences, not just individuals.
- When you speak, try to talk from the perspective of the impact that an event has made upon your life or life for your family.
- Although your first loyalty will be to your own child, please try to support other children too.
- Following the conference, please keep the details of the conference confidential, for everyone's benefit.

Thanks again for your help.