

RESTORATIVE

VERSUS

TRADITIONAL

COMPARING THE 2 APPROACHES TO
DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOL



Puts relationships
first

Norms are agreed
upon and respected
by teachers and
students

In regards to wrong-
doing, the focus is on
problem-solving and
repairing the harm
caused

Includes all those
involved in the healing
process by using talking
circles where the
wrongdoer is
encouraged to take
responsibility after harm
has been caused



Puts curriculum and
test scores first

Rules are enforced by
teachers and
students are
expected to follow

In regards to wrong-
doing, the focus is on
what happened and
establishing blame or
guilt

Excludes offenders
from school activities
and is punished by
issuing referrals,
detentions,
suspensions or
expulsions when harm
has been caused