



Policy Number CHI5

Bereavement Policy

Produced by Childwall Church of England Primary School

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Our Mission Statement

“And the child grew and became strong; He was full of wisdom and God’s blessings were upon Him.” (Luke 2:40)

Our Vision

We strive, with God’s grace, to enable every child to grow academically, socially, morally, spiritually and culturally in the knowledge they are loved by God and are safe and valued within our school community. Our core Christian values are woven throughout our curriculum and wider school ethos to fully prepare each of our children to achieve the highest holistic outcomes.

Our mission statement, “And the child grew and became strong...” (Luke 2:40) embodies our vision and commitment to equip children with the values and tools to enable them to thrive and flourish, embracing both success and challenge, prepared for “life in all its fullness.” (John 10:10)

DOCUMENT STATUS

Version	Date	Action
Version 1	October 2020	New Policy agreed by Vision & Values Committee
	February 2023	Policy reviewed by Vision & Values Committee
Review Period	2 yearly	
Review Date	February 2025	

1. Rationale

- 1.1. We understand that bereavement is faced by members of our school community at different times and that when the loss is of a member of this community – such as a child, parent or staff member - it can be particularly difficult.
- 1.2. Pupils need to be supported when they experience family bereavements and other significant losses in the course of their lives while they are at school.
- 1.3. This policy will provide guidelines to be followed after a bereavement.
- 1.4. The aim is to be supportive to both pupils and adults, and for staff to have greater confidence and be better equipped to cope and support when bereavement happens.
- 1.5. Every death and the circumstances in which it occurs is different and this policy has been designed to guide us on how to deal professionally, sensitively and compassionately with difficult matters in upsetting circumstances.
- 1.6. Childwall C.E. Primary School is committed to the emotional health and well-being of its staff and pupils.
- 1.7. We strive to work towards this in our belief that all children, without exception and without exclusion, are loved by God and should feel safe and valued within our school community.
- 1.8. This policy is supported by training from School Improvement Liverpool and based on practice that has grown over time, and provides a resource as a working document to support our community.

2. Statement of Intent

- 2.1. The core intentions of the policy are:
 - 2.1.1. To support pupils, families and/or staff before (where applicable), during, and after bereavement.
 - 2.1.2. To enhance effective communication and clarify the pathway of support between school, family and community.
 - 2.1.3. To identify key staff within school and LA, and clarify the pathway of support.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1. The role of the governing body:
 - 3.1.1. To approve policy and monitor its implementation, to be reviewed every 2 years.
 - 3.1.2. To monitor the headteacher's emotional well-being, through meetings/conversations with the Chair of Governors or other appropriate governor
 - 3.1.3. Assist the headteacher, where required, in responding to media requests for information in the case of a publicised death
- 3.2. The role of the head teacher:
 - 3.2.1. To monitor progress and liaise with external agencies.
 - 3.2.2. To keep the governing body fully informed.
 - 3.2.3. To be first point of contact for family/child concerned.
 - 3.2.4. To respond to media enquiries, where applicable
 - 3.2.5. To monitor the staff's emotional well-being, offering support and coaching and referring, where appropriate, to external support
- 3.3. The role of the LA:
 - 3.3.1. To advise and support staff and consult on referral pathways and identification of complex grief.
- 3.4. The role of Wellbeing & Pastoral Team:
 - 3.4.1. To have bereavement support training and cascade learning to other staff.
 - 3.4.2. To manage resources, advise and guide other staff (if appropriate) how to support individual children.

4. Procedures

- 4.1. Contact with the deceased's family should be established by the headteacher and their wishes respected in communicating with others. Factual information is essential to avoid rumour and confusion, whilst being sensitive to cultural and religious considerations.
- 4.2. Staff should be informed before pupils and be prepared (through prior training) to share information in age-appropriate ways, as agreed for each individual circumstance.
- 4.3. Pupils who are affected should be informed, preferably in small groups, by someone known to them.
- 4.4. If deemed appropriate, a letter to all school families affected should be composed at the earliest opportunity and a decision made as to by whom, and how, it should be distributed.
- 4.5. The school should be aware that the school timetable may need a degree of flexibility to accommodate the needs and wellbeing of children affected by the situation. However, minimal disruption to the timetable also offers a sense of security and familiarity.
- 4.6. Staff affected by the death will be offered ongoing support as appropriate.
- 4.7. In consultation with the bereaved family, arrangements for funeral attendance may be clarified, with the consideration of full or partial school closure in some circumstances.
- 4.8. Where necessary, a press statement should be prepared by the headteacher, with support from LA team and governors, if appropriate.
- 4.9. School recognise that the impact of bereavement follows a child throughout their school life so information should be recorded and shared with relevant people, particularly at transition points.

5. How we will support children returning to school following a bereavement

- 5.1. Support parents/carers in talking to their children honestly
- 5.2. Talk about the person who has died
- 5.3. Ask pupil what they would find useful on their return to school
- 5.4. If necessary, consider an individual re-integration package
- 5.5. Help the pupil catch up any work they have missed
- 5.6. Go at their pace, do not rush into things
- 5.7. Involve close friends in a supportive way
- 5.8. Ensure child has a link person they feel they can speak to when necessary
- 5.9. Make time to listen
- 5.10. Provide a safe space for time out.
- 5.11. Wellbeing Co-ordinators have a tool kit of practical ideas.
- 5.12. Be mindful of and sensitive in our approach to special days e.g.. Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas
- 5.13. Ensure information is recorded and shared with relevant people, particularly at transition points
- 5.14. Quietly check on an ongoing basis how things are going
- 5.15. If beneficial, establish a peer support network
- 5.16. Be alert to changes in behaviour
- 5.17. Be mindful of absences
- 5.18. Keep routines, boundaries and structures-promotes a sense of security
- 5.19. No set pattern or time limit to grief. Be prepared to share the journey

6. List of Online Resources and Information

Cruse Bereavement Care provides support after the death of someone close including face to face, telephone, group support, as well as bereavement support for children.

Phone: 0808 808 1677 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)
0845 600 2227 (Scotland)

[Visit the Cruse Bereavement Care website](#)

Hopeagain (Cruse for young people) - support for children and young people affected by the death of someone close.

Phone: 0808 808 1677 (Mon-Fri, 9:00am-5:00pm)

[Visit the Hopeagain website](#)

The Bereavement Trust offers comfort, support and practical advice to the bereaved from 6pm until 10pm every evening of the year.

Phone: 0800 435 455

[Visit The Bereavement Trust website](#)

Dying Matters offers information on end of life and bereavement, including writing a will, funeral plans and end of life care.

[Visit the Dying Matters website](#)

Child Bereavement UK supports families when a baby or child of any age dies or is dying, or when a child is facing bereavement.

Phone: 0800 02 888 40

[Visit the Child Bereavement UK website](#)

The Child Death Helpline offers support to anyone affected by the death of a child of any age, from prebirth to adult, under any circumstances, however recently or long ago.

Phone: 0800 282 986

[Visit the Child Death Helpline website](#)

The Compassionate Friends offer support, understanding and comfort to bereaved siblings and parents after the death of a child, of any age, from any cause.

Phone: 0845 123 0345 (daily 10am-4pm and 7pm-10pm)

Northern Ireland: 028 8778 8016 (daily 10am-4pm and 7pm-9.30pm)

[Visit the Compassionate Friends website](#)

Winston's Wish provides services to bereaved children, young people and their families and offer practical support and guidance to anyone concerned about a grieving child.

Phone: 08088 020 021

[Visit the Winston's Wish website](#)

Grief Encounter provides child bereavement counselling, workbooks, a Grief Relief Kit and family days for bereaved children, young people and their families.

Phone: 0808 802 0111 (Mon-Fri 9am-9pm)

[Visit the Grief Encounter website](#)

Related Information and Support

If you have also been affected by caring issues, organisations listed on [Carers support page](#) may be able to help.

You can find current information and support for issues covered by Action Line on the [BBC Action Line website](#)

