



# Greenholm Primary School

## Bereavement and Loss Policy

### Rationale

At Greenholm Primary School, we understand that bereavement is faced by all members of our school community at different times and that this loss can be particularly difficult for those involved. Approximately 1 in 25 children and young people will experience bereavement of a parent or sibling. This policy therefore provides guidelines on how we will support the school community to have greater confidence in dealing with bereavement should it happen. Our school is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all and therefore work towards creating a school environment, which supports and prepares the pupils for coping with the loss of a loved one through experiences such as death and divorce.

### Aims

- To provide a framework to support staff, pupils, parents and carers to give guidance on how to deal with the subject sensitively and compassionately.
- To have clear expectations and procedures in place and to create a safe and nurturing environment.
- For the whole school community to work together including with outside agencies to support each other.
- To enhance communication within the school community to give the opportunity for all to express their feelings and to grieve.
- For staff to be aware of their needs when grieving and become aware of these so can better support the children.
- For children to have the opportunity to express their feelings, share their memories and develop coping strategies to help with the process of grieving and loss.
- For families to feel supported both inside and outside of school

### Family Bereavement

When a family is faced with a bereavement, the school will act sensitively to help the family with their loss and will seek support when necessary from the Head Teacher and outside agencies. The class teacher will be the first line of support for the child and the Head Teacher will offer additional support. If needed, the school will seek counselling from outside agencies however, this may not be appropriate for everyone. We will remain in contact with parents and carers throughout the process and will ensure that they have been offered the support, which they need.

### Death of Child or Staff Member

Following the death of a pupil or staff member an assembly will be held in their honour and a way to celebrate their life. This could be in many forms and will be decided in accordance with the families' wishes. Staff will be offered support on an individual basis and should make their phase leader aware if they become concerned with their or a colleagues wellbeing. Staff and Children will be encouraged to express their feelings and thoughts and be given support throughout.



### Terminally Ill Pupils or Staff

In the event that a pupil or member of staff is diagnosed with a terminal illness, the wishes of themselves and their family members will be respected. Should the child want to be at school, the teacher and school will act according to the parents' wishes and if appropriate, inform the class in a sensitive manner.

### Training of Staff

Key members of the pastoral team are trained in bereavement and loss according to the local authority. We will ensure that all staff are familiar with this policy and these procedures for responding to bereavement and will offer training when suitable. Whenever necessary, we will request additional support from colleagues or from external support agencies.

### List of Websites to Support The Process

<https://edwardstrust.org.uk/>

<http://www.beyondthehorizon.org.uk/>

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/children/how-to-help>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/feelings-and-symptoms/death-and-loss/>

<https://childbereavementuk.org/places/unitedkingdom/london/london/other/youngminds-parents-helpline/>

<https://www.winstonswish.org/>

### Books to Support The Process

Rabbityness by Jo Empson

Always and Forever by Debbie Gliori

The Memory Tree by Britta Teckemtrup

Badgers Parting Gifts by Susan Verley