



Kirkby High School

Bereavement Procedure (Pupils)

Amending or Replacing previous policy	
Date Adopted	
Signature of Chair	
Date of Review	
Signature of Chair on review if unamended	
Date of next review	
Signature of Chair on review if unamended	

BEREAVEMENT PROCEDURE (PUPILS)

In the immediate

- Contact with the family is essential – talk to and/or visit with the pupil and family.
- Disseminate accurate information, following the family wishes.
- Consult the young person regarding return to school strategies.
- Brief the bereaved pupil's class before return, again mindful of pupil's wishes.
- Help class write letters, send flowers, cards, prepare for return.
- Whole school assembly and lesson time planned to address concerns.
- Have contact with pupil just before return to school.
- Discuss funeral with staff and pupils and who may attend.
- All of the above should be mindful of the family and pupil's culture and wishes.

Ongoing

- Ensuring missed work is available and pupil does not fall behind.
- Provide a safe space and person if pupil needs time out- and monitor.
- Consider the possibilities of peer support.
- Be alert to verbal and non-verbal communications and changes in behaviour.
- Consider ways to commemorate the dead person, if the pupil wishes.
- Support the staff supporting the young person.
- Remember that grieving will not be over in a day, week or month.
- The bereavement history should travel with the young person, noting significant dates.
- Remember and respect

School may be an escape for the bereaved person- a place where there are no parents and reminders. It may be 6 months/1 year after a sudden death that the young person reacts. This is normal and not an excuse or attention-seeking behaviour.

10 main needs of bereaved child

- To acknowledge that death is omnipresent
- Need for structure
- Need to tell story
- Make sense of confusions with adult
- To have their pain held
- Help to find tools for managing
- To fill some of the empty spaces
- To possess facts
- To feel cared for and understood
- To find a new kind of normal