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## BEREAVEMENT POLICY

### SUMMARY GUIDE

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By creating a clear and robust policy the school can provide a framework for school staff members to address death and the consequences of death. A school policy will enable staff members to feel more confident when working with bereaved students and they will be able to support them more efficiently. Such a policy will also include concise guidelines for those staff members supporting a bereaved child or young person and help support staff to deal with a sensitive and often difficult subject.

A bereavement policy should be a working document which will enable a school to:

- Consider the impact of a death within the school;
- Use expertise and share responsibilities;
- Make appropriate plans, produce guidelines and draft letters;
- Collect resources for support;
- Prepare staff and organise any training; and
- Create a bereavement-aware culture within the community

#### **Bereavement Policy - a suggested framework**

- Aims and Ethos
- Rationale
- Objectives

#### **Section 1 – The death of a pupil or member of staff**

- Roles and responsibilities
- Procedures
- The first few days
- The funeral
- Support for pupils
- Support for staff
- Remembering

#### **Section 2 - Supporting a bereaved pupil & member of staff**

- Returning to school after a bereavement
- Longer term support
- Death, grief and bereavement in the curriculum

#### **Appendix**

- Populated Flow Chart of responsibilities
- List of useful contacts and agencies
- Booklist