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**Developing a Bereavement Charter for your school**

The *process* of developing a Bereavement Charter for your school is probably as important as the final charter itself.

Working as a school community to create your own Local Bereavement Charter can:

* Provide space for staff and students to start to think about, explore and understand bereavement and grief.
* Give people the chance to consider what kind of a community they want to create, and their own role in that.
* Give people a sense of ownership and pride in the school’s Bereavement Charter.

It is a good idea to try to:

* Get buy-in from the right people – who needs to be involved in this to make it a success?
* Establish a group of interested people, and try to get representation from different groups including students, teachers, management and non-teaching staff. Don’t pressurise anyone to be part of the group – not everyone will feel in the right space to be involved in this work.
* As a group, discuss what you think staff and students need when they’re bereaved, and how your school community can help to meet these needs. Think about the good things your school already does, and some of the things you’d like to do better.
* Work with a purpose – plan what you need to get from your group meetings, what questions you need the group to discuss, and how you’ll give people the chance to contribute to the draft charter before you finalise it.

An example charter is provided on the next two pages. This is just one example of the kind of thing your group might come up with.

**Our School Bereavement Charter**

‘Bereavement’ is when someone important to you dies. It could be someone in your family, a friend, neighbour or pet. In our school we recognise that sometimes children and staff are affected by bereavement. When that happens we want our school to be an understanding and supportive place to be.

**If you are bereaved…**

**Staff and children at the school will do our best to treat you with kindness and thoughtfulness.**

**We understand that:**

* everyone experiences grief differently, and that you could be feeling sadness, worry, anger, guilt, mixed-up or a range of other emotions.
* you may find it difficult to concentrate, or feel unwell.
* how you feel can change over time.
* you may want to talk about what has happened, or you might not want to discuss it at all.

**Staff and children at the school will do our best to understand, consider and respect your needs, wishes, choices and beliefs.**

We might not get it right every time, but we will try.

**If you feel you need some extra support, or there is something the school community can do better to support you through bereavement, please tell someone…**

P1-3 Contact: TEACHER NAME

P4-7 contact: TEACHER NAME

Staff contact: NAME

**Further information**

**For children**

The school has a collection of books and information about bereavement that you can look at or borrow. These are kept ADD LOCATION HERE.

**For staff**

If you’re bereaved yourself:

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Supporting bereaved children:

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Being there for bereaved colleagues:

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Being a supportive manager:

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