

St Anne's RC Primary and Nursery School Audenshaw

Policy for Bereavement

Our Mission is

"To help every person to achieve his or her best in work and play.

To celebrate whatever is good and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus

by supporting and forgiving each other for the honour and glory of God."

Rationale:

In line with our Mission Statement, St Anne's Roman Catholic Primary and Nursery School Primary School is openly inclusive, welcoming all our children to a caring and happy environment where they can achieve to the very best of their abilities.

We believe that all children are unique and we encourage them to develop as individuals "in work and in play".

We have a holistic approach, ensuring our children develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically

We believe in the necessity of having a Bereavement Policy in place in order that we might be sensitive and proactive, rather than reactive, when responding to families bereavements.

There is also the understanding that the familiar and secure surroundings of school may be all the bereavement support some children or staff require, but that despite this, referral to more specialist support should be a consideration where the impact of grief is more complex.

Additional information and resources can be accessed at www.childbereavement.org.uk

Aims

The core intentions of the policy are to:

- support pupils and/or staff before (where applicable), during, and after bereavement
- enhance effective communication and clarify the pathway of support between school, family and community.
- identify key staff within school and clarify the pathway of support.

The Children Act 1989 ensures that the welfare of the child is paramount, working in partnership with parents to protect the child from harm

http://www.careandthelaw.org.uk/eng/b_section2

All intentions of this policy endorse that aim as we endeavour to counter any adverse effects of bereavement and maintain pupils' emotional well-being.

Guidance:

- 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.
- Staff should be informed before children and be prepared to share information in age-appropriate ways, as agreed for each individual circumstance.
- 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.
- Staff affected by the death will be offered ongoing support as appropriate.
- 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.
- Where necessary a press statement should be prepared by the Head Teacher
- School should be aware 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.

This policy was agreed: November 2015
And was reviewed: September 2016