



# Northgate Primary School

## **Bereavement Care Policy**

### **Rationale**

Many of the children in our care are likely to encounter death of a pet, grandparent, other relative or family friend during their time with us. For a few the loss will be immediate and traumatic involving the death of a parent or sibling.

### **Guidelines**

The following guidelines are a summary of what we can do at Northgate Primary following bereavement. These guidelines are particularly appropriate in cases where the death concerned is of a close relative or friend but can be adopted according to individual circumstances.

- We will aim to provide a caring environment in which children are allowed time to grieve. Children will be made aware, if appropriate, that tears are an outward sign of grief
- We will take the religious, cultural and social backgrounds, as well as parental wishes, into account when considering appropriate responses.
- We will ensure that all staff involved in the care of the bereaved child are aware of the circumstances and the child's wishes. This includes staff involved in transfer from year to year and between schools.
- We will endeavour to encourage the child to be in school and value any contribution made.
- We will make the child aware that staff will find the time to listen and talk. Access to Cosmic Corner and Toast Time is available if needed.
- If necessary, we will identify the child a staff member he/she can trust and talk to.
- We will endeavour to recognise and address the fears and emotions of the other children which may arise from the situation.
- We will understand that the child will not 'get over it' or 'put it behind them' but with time will learn to cope with it.
- We will identify children who need specialist support

**Agreed by Staff: May 2018**

**Agreed by Governors: May 2018**

**Review: May 2019**

*J Bailey*

**Chair of Governors**