



David Ross Education Trust  

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Broadening Horizons

# Pupil Bereavement Policy



## Document Management Information

**Applicable to:** All staff in





## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. At the David Ross Education Trust, we understand that bereavement is faced by members of our Trust and schools' communities at different times, whether this is the death of a family member, a friend or a member of the school community. We understand the importance of providing support to pupils, staff, governors and the wider school and Trust community during and after bereavement.
- 1.2. This policy will focus on the support for pupils, all mentions of 'the family' refer to the family of the deceased individual.



- The principal will gather factual information about what has happened and establish the family's wishes with regards to what information will be communicated to the school / Trust community and how. If a death affects an entire school, e.g. the death of a pupil, the principal will inform the family that staff and pupils will be informed as soon as possible.
- If a death affects an individual pupil, e.g. the death of a parent, the principal will ask the family if they would like this to be communicated to the school community. If it is decided that the death will be communicated, the principal will discuss with the family, and the pupil if possible, what information will be communicated and how the family would like it to be delivered.
- If the death of a pupil's family member occurs while the pupil is at school, a member of the pupil's family will be asked to come to the school to inform the pupil of what has happened and to take them home. If this is not possible, arrangements will be made for a member of staff to take the pupil home.
- The principal / designated safeguarding lead will contact any other agencies as required, e.g. the police and the Local Authority for support. Where children's social care is already involved with the family, the designated safeguarding lead will communicate with the social worker to coordinate support, in discussion with the family.
- The principal will liaise with the police in the event of a death involving murder. Representatives from the media will not be permitted on academy premises.





- Pupils with a history of loss
- Pupils with SEND
- Pupils who have difficulty managing their emotions or behaviour

#### 5.2.3. Informing parents

- The principal will agree with the family about whether any parents need to be informed about the death. If the death affects the whole school, the principal will strongly recommend to the family that all parents should be informed; however, if the death does not affect the whole





7.10. A record will be made of anniversaries and days with regards to the death which may act as a trigger for challenging behaviour.

## **8. Roles and Responsibilities**

8.1. The principal will be responsible for

- Implementing this policy.
- Liaising with safeguarding partners, as appropriate (e.g. NHS, social workers, police).
- Informing members of the ASC and staff when a death occurs and arranging for pupils to be informed, as appropriate and with approval from the family.
- Being the first point of contact for staff, pupils and parents directly involved in a death, or designating this role to another appropriate member of staff.
- Responding to any enquiries from the media or the wider school or Trust community, or appointing a member of staff to undertake these duties.
- Ensuring staff have the necessary training to support bereaved pupils and to deliver sensitive news.
- Ensuring suitable resources are always available e.g. assemblies and recommended reading.

## **9. Policy Status**

9.1. This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment.

## **10. Related Policies**

10.1. This policy is related to the following other Trust policies:

- The DRET Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- The DRET Behaviour and Ethos policy
- The DRET Anti-bullying policy