



Bereavement Policy

Children and their families may experience grief and loss of close family members, friends or pets whilst with us in the setting. We understand that this is not only a difficult time for families but it may also be a confusing time for young children, especially if they have little or no understanding of why their parents are upset and why this person/pet is no longer around.

We aim to support both the child and their family and will adapt the following procedure to suit their individual needs and preferences:

- We ask that if there is a loss of a family member or close friend that the parents inform the setting as soon as they feel able to. This will enable us to support both the child and the family wherever we can and helps us to understand a potential change in behaviour in a child who may be grieving themselves.
- The key person and/or the manager on duty will talk with the family to ascertain what support is needed or wanted from the setting. This may be an informal discussion or a meeting away from the child to help calm a potentially upsetting situation.
- The child may need extra support or one-to-one care during this difficult time, the setting will adapt their staffing arrangements so they are fully supported by the most appropriate member of staff on duty, preferably the child's key person.
- The setting will be flexible wherever possible to adapt the sessions the child and family may need during this time.

We will adapt the above procedure wherever it is appropriate when a family pet dies, to support the child to understand their loss and support their emotions through this time.

We also recognise that there may also be rare occasions when the nursery team is affected by a death of a child or member of staff. This will be a difficult time for the staff team, children and families. Below are some agencies that may be able to offer further support and counselling if this occurs.

The Samaritans: www.samaritans.co.uk 08457 909090

Priory: www.priorygroup.com 08452 PRIORY (08452 774679)

Child Bereavement UK: www.childbereavementuk.org

Cruse Bereavement Care: www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk 0844 477 9400
helpline@cruse.org.uk

British Association of Counselling: www.bacp.co.uk 01788 578328

SANDS: www.uk-sands.org

| This policy was adopted on | Signed on behalf of the nursery | Date for review |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| October 2016 | Cheryl Adams | September 2017 |