

St George's School
The School Bereavement Plan.

A straightforward form that collects basic information about any death that affects a child at our school.

Who completes it?

The parent/carer of the child or an adult that the parent/carer nominates and the class teacher, Learning Mentor or SENCo sit down together to complete the form.

How will it help?

For the child:

- Acknowledges the child's loss.
- Ensures that there is a liaison between home and school, including a discussion of coping strategies that will support the child during a difficult time
- Ensures that staff are aware of difficult dates (such as anniversaries, birthdays), so that the child feels more supported
- Provides continuity of care. If information is shared between all the staff that the child encounters then they will all know about coping strategies and can be understanding at difficult times
- Ensures that any changes in behaviour that may occur later (eg rebellious behaviour when child approaches age that sibling was when they died) are put into context and dealt with in an understanding, informed way

For the family:

- Acknowledges their loss.
- Sends a message that their child's happiness matters and that they are valued by the school
- Allows parents to have a voice in working out a plan for their child
- If the parent is unable to be involved they can nominate a trusted adult
- Takes the onus off the parent to remind school on a yearly basis or every time the class teacher changes about significant dates etc
- It may encourage regular feedback which in turn may be reassuring for grieving parents

For the school

- Records important details accurately.
 - Provides a method of keeping information safe. Generally speaking in most schools this information is held by the class teacher and office staff. If those staff move on then this information can be lost
 - Provides a "scaffold" for staff who may be unused to dealing with bereavement
 - Acts as a prompt to ensure that a care plan for the child is considered
- St George's School
- Allows schools to focus on the child rather than worrying about

devising their own forms/systems at a time which may be difficult for staff.

- Reviewing the form annually means that the effects of the bereavement can be monitored in a low-level way. Research has shown that bereavement can affect children on a long-term basis. Picking up early on changed behaviours will allow schools to offer more effective help
- Fulfils obligations of Every Child Matters.

How will it work?

- Meeting between the parent/carer or nominated adult and class teacher.
- Copy of plan to be kept by parent, class teacher and SENCO
- Relevant information on plan shared with all school staff
- Plan passed on to next years class teacher