



SHOBNALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR BEREAVEMENT **COVID-19 ADDENDUM**

Written May 2020
Review Ongoing During Coronavirus Outbreak
Last Review *1 September 2020*

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This addendum has been created to outline other provisions we are putting in place to support our school community during and after the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We have created this addendum in accordance with government guidance and advice from bereavement organisations such as Winston's Wish and Cruse Bereavement Care.

The school will act in accordance with the Bereavement Policy as much as possible; however, we recognise the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus pandemic and that we may need to support the school community using some different approaches. This addendum sets out what additional actions the school will take to support pupils, staff and the wider school community during and after the coronavirus pandemic

SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

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SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

- Support for pupils will continue to be implemented in line with section 11 of our policy as far as possible; however, other measures will be implemented to account for the partial closure of the school.
- The headteacher will inform pupils and their parents via letter of the support available, both from the school and externally.
- The headteacher will arrange for links to resources that can support pupils with bereavement during the coronavirus to be hosted on the school website.
- Pastoral staff will arrange a number of scheduled sessions throughout the week where pupils are able to get in touch with a member of staff to discuss any concerns or questions they have related to bereavement and the pandemic. Other staff members will assist pastoral staff in speaking to pupils during these contact points as required.
- Pupils who are known to be vulnerable will be identified and designated a key member of staff who will be responsible for keeping in touch with this pupil and their parents.

SUPPORT FOR STAFF

- Pastoral staff will advise other members of staff of how to support pupils during partial school closure.
- Support for staff will continue to be implemented in line with section 10 of the policy as far as possible.
- The headteacher will inform staff via email of the support available to them both in school and externally.
- Line managers will arrange weekly catch ups with the members of staff in their team, where they can discuss any questions or concerns relating to bereavement and the coronavirus pandemic. These conversations will be held face-to-face, if both staff members are working in school, or via telephone or video call if one or more staff members are working remotely.
- The headteacher will identify staff members who are known to be vulnerable and will arrange for pastoral staff to contact these members of staff to identify any additional support that is required.

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE DEATH OF SOMEONE CLOSE TO THEM

- If the school learns that a pupil or member of staff has experienced the death of someone close to them, the following process will be followed:
 - The headteacher will contact the family via telephone to:

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- Acknowledge what has happened.
- Express their support and the support of the school community.
- Discuss how the family would like the news to be shared with the rest of the school community, bearing in mind that not all staff and pupils will be present on the school premises at this time.
- Check whether the family want their contact information to be shared.
- Agree on one or two contacts who will liaise with the family and, where a pupil is bereaved, the child.
- Direct the family towards additional support they can access, e.g. bereavement charities such as Winston's Wish.
- The headteacher will share the information with staff members. Those staff members that are on the school premises will be told during a staff briefing and staff members that are at home will be contacted by the headteacher via telephone.
- The headteacher will inform the governing board of what has happened via telephone.
- A member of pastoral staff will contact the pupil or staff member via letter to acknowledge what has happened and express their support.
- The information is shared with the wider school community, as agreed with the family and taking into consideration that not all pupils and parents are able to come to the school premises.
- The headteacher and pastoral staff will identify pupils and staff members who may be particularly vulnerable (i.e. those who have been bereaved or who have a seriously ill relative). Pastoral staff will arrange to speak to these pupils and staff members individually, either face-to-face or via telephone depending on whether they are on the school premises.

REMEMBRANCE ACTIVITIES

- During partial school closure and while social distancing measures remain in place, the school will not hold group remembrance activities, e.g. remembrance assemblies.
- Other remembrance activities will be undertaken as appropriate, e.g. compiling condolences from the school community and sending these to the family.
- Where a death has affected the whole school community, e.g. the death of a pupil or staff member, the headteacher will decide whether a memorial service will be held at a later date.

SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY DURING THE RECOVERY PHASE

- As the school reopens, pastoral staff will speak to pupils and staff members who have experienced the death of someone close to them and ensure the appropriate support remains in place.

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- The headteacher and pastoral staff will discuss whether it would be appropriate for certain pupils and staff that have been affected to have a phased return to school.