



St Peters Pre-School Policies and Procedures
January 2025

Bereavement Policy

Children are affected by bereavement in different ways. Some may be sad and withdrawn, others may be angry and display behaviour that challenges us. Some children show their grief immediately, whilst others may not at the beginning, but later, after weeks or even months. Children's understanding of death will vary with their age and stage of development. Young children may not have the language or cognitive ability to tell you what they are experiencing and how they feel. We want to offer children appropriate support, which can have a positive and long-lasting impact on their well-being.

Immediately after being informed, we will aim to:

- Contact the parent/carer to express sympathy and gather as much information as possible about the circumstance of the death and find out what the child has been told.
- Encourage the parent to continue sending their child(ren) to the setting as soon as is possible and explain to parents/carers that support will be available for their child(ren)
- Discuss if/ how they would like the information to be shared with the other children and staff.

The support we aim to provide:

- We will always be sensitive to the needs of the bereaved child
- We will reassure children that all their different feelings are normal in their situation.
- We will monitor children's engagement and well-being as we know that bereavement may have an impact on children's development.
- We will aim to help the child to feel 'safe, calm, connected in control in a number of ways including keeping to routines and using age-appropriate stories and resources

We are aware that grief does not operate on a timetable, and it may be months later that a child is most in need of support. It may be appropriate for referrals to be made to services that provide specialist support such as Daisy's Dream, www.daisysdream.org.uk.



This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Pre-school held on..... (Date)

Signed on behalf of the Pre-school: (Chairperson)