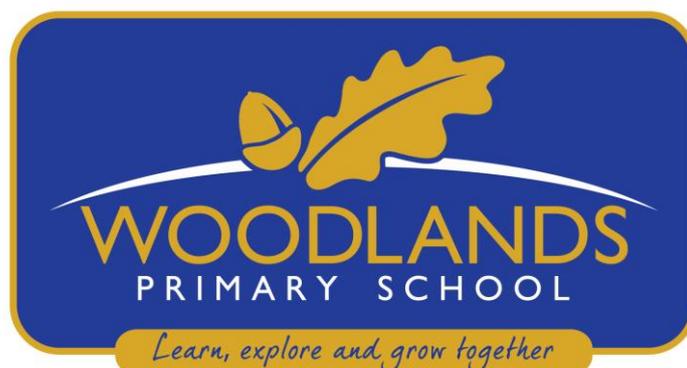


# Woodlands Primary School

## Bereavement Policy



<b>Written by</b>	Sarah Hardcastle
<b>Ratified by Governors</b>	Summer 2017
<b>Date for Review</b>	Summer 2020
<b>Signed – Chair of Governors</b>	
<b>Signed – Headteacher</b>	

This policy has been impact assessed by Mark Burns in order to ensure that it does not have an adverse affect on race, gender or disability equality

WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Bereavement Policy

Every 22 minutes in the UK a child is bereaved of a parent, making up some 24,000 a year. Many more are bereaved of a grandparent, sibling, friend or other significant person, and, sadly, around 12,000 children die in the UK each year. Within our school community there will almost always be some recently bereaved children who are struggling with their own situation – or sometimes the entire school community is impacted by the death of a member of staff or pupil.

A death within the school environment can cause an unbalanced feeling within the school as a whole. The school would need to show that they are still a strong ‘family’ bringing people together in their grief.

We believe that the ethos of the school is based on openness and mutual support therefore we need to minimise any disruption and show that the ‘world’ is still a safe and predictable place. This policy relates to the death of a staff member, a child within the school or the death of a parent of a child in the school.

The school will act in a planned and agreed manner. All staff will know what is expected of them and be consistent with the values that have been adopted.

The local authority’s crisis planning team will be utilised if necessary.

It is vital that our school has an ‘Intervention Team’ to work collaboratively.

<u>The Team</u>	<u>Role</u>
Mary Priestley <b>Headteacher</b>	First point of contact, responsible for dealing with all parties. To arrange a staff meeting and nominate a person to prepare a letter to parents and carers, if appropriate. To allocate a mentor, if needed (to act as a listener out of class etc.) after consultation with the bereaved person. To liaise with the family regarding any ‘memorial/celebration of life’.
Mark Burns / Sue Buxton <b>Deputy Headteachers</b>	To assist head and act as media spokesperson – liaise with police if required.
Alison Minton <b>Chair of Governors</b>	To ensure that all other governors are informed and provide support to the SLT.
Wendy Tubb Heather Fitzpatrick	To oversee administrative needs.
Sarah Hardcastle <b>Pastoral Support Officer</b> (Trained team member)	To offer support and guidance to team.
Dinah Sheppard <b>Bereavement Counsellor</b> (if required) – Fegan’s Educational psychology department	To offer emotional counselling as required.