



General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

Bereavement

Policy Statement

At Cherry Blossom Nursery and Preschool we recognise that children and their families may experience grief and loss of close family members/friends/pets whilst they are with us at nursery. 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 procedures to suit their individual needs

Procedures

- We ask that if there is a loss of a family member/close friend that the parents inform the nursery as soon as they feel able to. This will enable us to support both the child and the family wherever we can and also help us to understand any potential changes in behaviour of a child who may be grieving themselves.
 - The key person and/or the manager will talk with the family to ascertain what support is needed or wanted from the nursery. 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 1:1 care during this difficult time. We will adapt our staffing arrangements so the child is fully supported by the most appropriate member of staff on duty, where possible the child's key person.
- We will be as flexible as possible to adapt the sessions the child and family may need during this time

We will adapt the above procedure as appropriate when a family pet dies to help the child understand their loss and support their emotions through this time. We also

recognise that there may be occasions when the nursery team/team member is affected by a death. This will be a difficult time and below are some agencies that may be able to offer further support and counselling.

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.org 116 123

Priory: www.priorygroup.com 0800 691 1481

Child Bereavement UK: www.childbereavementuk.org 01494 568 900

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

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

SANDS: www.sands.org.uk

Date: 02/10/2025

Karen Elliott

Hayley Donoghue