

## Bereavement

When a school has been affected by the death of a pupil or member of staff all children and staff need to be told about the death. They need to understand what happened and how the news of the death may make them feel.

At Hartsbourne we will use the following guide:

- all staff and chair of governors told the news
- children told the news in their class groups (as it can be made age and stage appropriate)
- at the end of the day hold a whole school assembly (see Winston's Wish guide sheet).
- letter informing the parents sent home at the end of the day
- any legal paperwork, requirements completed.

Karen holds a pack of resources on Death & Bereavement. This contains storybooks and support materials.

It is important to remember that not all staff/children will be affected in the same way - some may have been especially close to the person who died and others more distant. Children and staff may show their feelings in different ways - not all will cry but it is acceptable to do so. Some may become angry or badly behaved, or giggle but this does not mean they do not care.

Coping in these circumstances can be very challenging. There is more than one way to support someone who is grieving. We need to choose the things we feel most comfortable with and be there when needed.