10.10 Bereavement

Policy Statement
At Privett Montessori nursery School we recognise that children and their families may experience grief and loss of close family members or friends or their family pets whilst with us in the Nursery School. 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 procedure to suit their individual needs and family preferences:

- We ask that if there is a loss of a family member or close friend that the parents inform the Nursery School as soon as they feel able to. This will enable us to support both the child and the family wherever we can and helps us to understand any potential changes in behaviour of a child who may be grieving themselves
- The key person and/or the Nursery School manager will talk with the family to ascertain what support is needed or wanted from the Nursery School. 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 one-to-one 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 to understand their loss and support their emotions through this time.

We also recognise that there may also be rare occasions when the Nursery School 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.

Useful websites and phone numbers are:

Organisation	Website	Phone number
The Samaritans	www.samaritans.org	116 123
SANDS	www.sands.org.uk	0808 164 3332
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
British Association of Counselling	www.bacp.co.uk	Not available

Change log		
This policy was changed on	**Signed on behalf of the nursery**	**Reason for change**
7/08/2020	Veronica van Ingen	Adoption of policy
27/10/2021	Veronica van Ingen	No changes, part of annual review
28/01/2026	Veronica van Ingen	No changes