

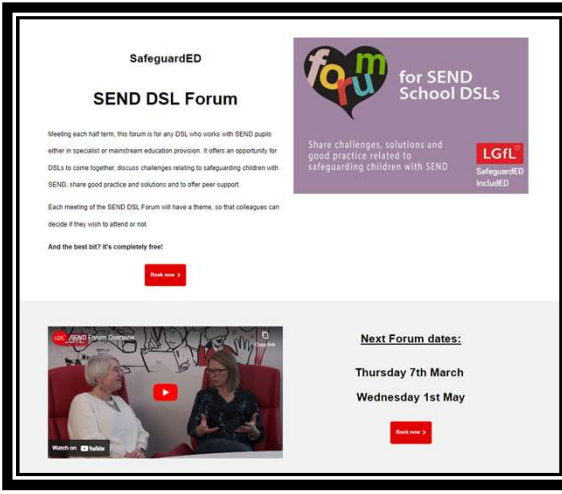


forum for SEND School DSLs

Share challenges, solutions and good practice related to safeguarding children with SEND

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SEND DSL Forum

Meeting each half term, this forum is for any DSL who works with SEND pupils either in specialist or mainstream education provision. It offers an opportunity for DSLs to come together, discuss challenges relating to safeguarding children with SEND, share good practice and solutions and to offer peer support.

Each meeting of the SEND DSL Forum will have a theme, so that colleagues can decide if they wish to attend or not.

And the best bit? It's completely free!

Next Forum dates:

Thursday 7th March
Wednesday 1st May

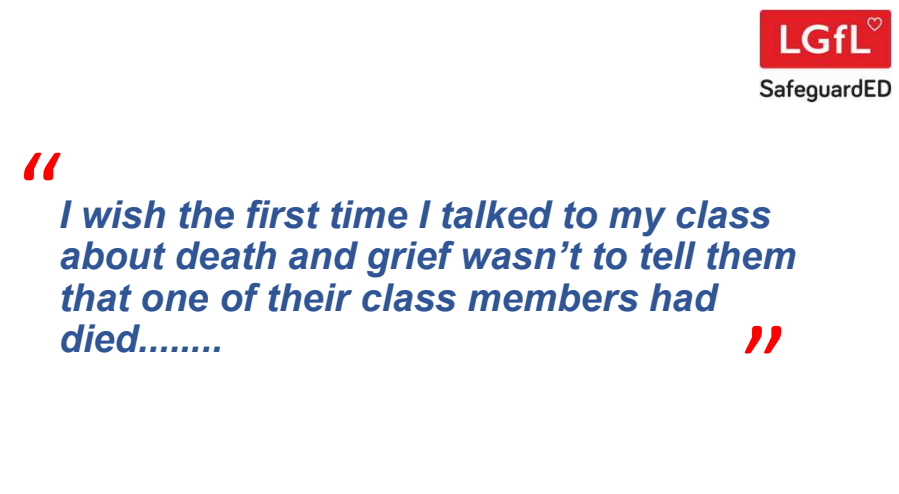
<https://sendforum.lgfl.net>

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“

I wish the first time I talked to my class about death and grief wasn't to tell them that one of their class members had died.....

”

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Bereavement resources to help support young people in education

Grief is a normal and natural response to loss, yet how pupils are supported can have significant impacts on long term outcomes



<https://childbereavement.lgfl.org.uk>


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Bereavement in a school context


Core principles

- Grief is **personal** and our responses/management varies between us all
- Children's developmental age plays a significant part in their understanding of grief so.....
-**Language is important**
- Euphemisms are **not** helpful and our own confidence/ experiences with death
- Usually grief **does not reduce**, many people grow their life positively around their grief



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“
Going into conversations about death can be quite intimidating, especially when we want to make sure our children are happy and safe and feel that way.
So, when you open this kind of box, it might make children feel sad or uncomfortable. But it was really helpful for me to see the kind of language I should be using because I think it's helped children feel more comfortable.
 ”

Ellen Watson Year 5 Teacher

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Policies/Protocols/Procedures

It appeared during the session that many schools did not have policies relating to bereavement (sudden death/managing bereavement or such like).

We cannot over-state the importance of having a clear and robust policy which includes easy to follow instructions (flow charts/diagrams), is accessible and up to date

- Guidance on this: <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/developing-a-bereavement-policy>
- SEND bereavement policy and procedures: <https://sendbereavement.lgfl.org.uk/SEN6.html>
- Must be specific to the setting (don't just pick up and use an off the shelf template)
- To include roles, responsibilities (incl. who will lead), comms strategy incl. social media (by who, to who, how, how often, when and what)
- If death is at school – notifications (e.g. police, children's services), safeguarding process
- Child death review/panel
- Include support for staff- helplines, EAP if appropriate
- Suggested scripts for staff to promote consistent language about death
- Test your protocols/procedures still work/up to date at least annually – walk through the process
- Consider various scenarios and ensure your policy is adaptable to these – death of pupil, death of staff member, death of parent, death of sibling and various circumstances including sudden/violent/multiple deaths
- Link to other key policies e.g. lockdown, safeguarding
- Link to curriculum where appropriate



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Training



Child Bereavement UK provides bereavement training for education sector professionals as part of our regular offer to schools.

- Find out more: <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/Pages/Events/Category/training-events?Take=17>
- 3-hour training for professionals working with pupils with SEND: <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/Event/bereavement-and-pupils-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>
- We can also deliver bespoke training for a school in an after-school slot, or as part of a training day contact schools@childbereavementuk.org

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Resources and Support



- SEND specific strategies for support <https://sendbereavement.lgfl.org.uk/SEN4.html>
- Books and resources <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/Listing/Category/books-resources>

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Resources and Support



- Short animated films: <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/Listing/Category/short-animated-films>
- Guidance films: <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/Listing/Category/short-guidance-films>

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Resources and Support



Recommendations from attendees:

- Winston's Wish- <https://winstonswish.org/>
- Back Pocket Teacher- <https://backpocketteacher.co.uk/>
- Evelyn's Gift - <https://evelynsgift.co.uk/>
- Some Employee Assistance Programmes offer free counselling and support for staff
- Educational Psychs
- Local Hospice support
- Mind guidance: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/bereavement/support-and-self-care/>
- Cruse- <https://www.cruse.org.uk>
- BOOKS – “*Lifetimes*”, “*Why do things die*”

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Resources and Support



- Preverbal child - staff produced an individualised book to explain the bereavement – now use this self-made resource with other pupils
- Create Social Stories
- Role-play funerals with wooden block figures
- Trauma-informed approaches to understand children's behaviour through the trauma informed lens (<https://mhwb.lgfl.net>) (<https://booking.lgfl.net/book/add/p/177>)

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Other good practice



- Create a memorial garden with and for all members of school community
- Offer wellbeing afternoons/days/allocated staff for staff to seek support
- Death as part of everyday conversation – e.g. dead pigeon on the road, discuss how they aren't breathing, they won't eat, etc. Helps to normalise and understand. OR Growing plants and learning about the life cycle.
- Worry boxes for staff as well as pupils.
- After death of children in a fire had the fire brigade in to talk about safety and reassure children.

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LGfL Child Bereavement UK guidance:
<https://childbereavement.lgfl.org.uk>



Cruse Bereavement Support

Call our Helpline
0800 02 888 40

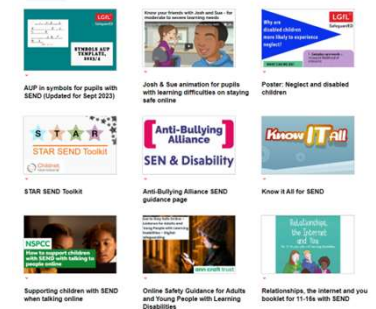
Call our Helpline 0808 808 1677

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Keep in touch



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SEND Forum site: sendforum.lgfl.net
IncludED site: included.lgfl.net
Resources: saferesources.lgfl.net
Training: safetraining.lgfl.net
Email: safeguarding@lgfl.net



<https://sendsafe.lgfl.net>

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