



Mission Statement:

The Sacred Heart is a Community committed to the education of its pupils in a Catholic Christian ethos, where each person is invited to serve God and others in faith, hope and love.

Aims:

- To foster spiritual growth in Christian faith and values
- To value learning and curiosity
- To work for excellence
- To pursue the truth
- To inspire high ideals
- To stimulate generous service of others

Bereavement / Critical Illness Policy

Bereavement may include loss of a current pupil, a parent, a brother or sister, a member of staff or even a public figure.

Pupils also feel a great sense of loss from a range of problems including marriage break up, serious illness and moving to a new area.

Aim:

- To ensure a compassionate response and atmosphere for any person in the school community who has been bereaved by a death of someone close.
- To act with sensitivity so that others do not feel awkward.
- To ensure teaching staff feel supported.
- To help pupils and staff to pray for those involved and to re-enforce the Christian belief that God has prepared heaven for us
- To pray every November for those we know who have died
- To have a culture that speaks of the only thing we are really sure that will happen to us is death.

Procedures relating to death of a person

The school will try always to follow the wishes of the bereaved family.

All staff and pupils will be informed of bereavement as appropriate, possibly class by class.

Prayers may be said at Assembly / at Mass for the bereaved family.

A member of staff or one of the Sisters will endeavour to attend the funeral if it is not a private occasion.

Flowers or a donation to charity, will be sent as wished.

The Press will only be spoken to by the Headteacher

Procedures for other forms of Bereavement

All staff should be informed and therefore alert to pupil's situation.

Communicate concerns to a member of the Senior Management.

Senior Staff will discuss situation and decide on action – a) see pupil to see what help they would like if any

b) may contact the Parents.

Role of Staff

Staff will endeavour to be sensitive to the needs of a bereaved pupil / adult.

Staff will seek help as needed

May contact local priest.

PSHE is an opportunity for tactful discussion

See also: **Policy on Health**

Role of parents / guardians

Parents are advised to let the school know when a pupil has been bereaved and remain in touch as necessary

Monitoring & Review

The Senior Management Team will review any instances where this policy has been applied to see if it is appropriate

Resources

Fr Michael, our chaplain is available. The Sisters are always ready to counsel pupils, parents and staff.
We have the services of a confidential counsellor

The Norfolk Critical Incident team can supply very useful counselling support in the aftermath of a serious incident.

National Bereavement Trust – among other resources they have cards for bereaved children which they can simply lay on their desk to show how they feel.

Winston's Wish – help for bereaved children.

For younger pupils puppets can be useful.

The Chaplain at Notre Dame School in Norwich (Teresa) is happy to give advice

Books:

When something terrible happens by Heegaard
The Goodbye Boat by Joslin and Little
Not now, Bernard by David McKee
Muddles, Puddles, and Sunshine by Diana Crossley
Badger's parting gifts by Susan Varley
Granpa by John Burningham
Millie's Bug Nut by Jill Janney
The Sad Book by Michael Rosen
The Hideaway by Bill Merrington (for Senior pupils)

For pupils:

Who do you go to?

Probably friends first.
The Listeners
The Sisters and Fr Micheal
Any teacher or member of staff who you can talk to
Deputy Head /Head of Lower School.
Headgirl or prefects
LSA

We do have a counsellor who you can ask to see confidentially – Ask a member of staff to arrange this.

(Prepared August 2008 DPW; Nov 2011, Sr F