



Bereavement or Life Limiting Treatment Support Policy

Bereavement is the loss that is experienced when something or someone has died. Children can experience family bereavement at any point in their lives, and may also require support from Orchard Childcare team when a parent or significant family member is undergoing medical treatment for a life limiting or chronic condition. This policy sets out how we will endeavour to support the child and family, but starting from the basis that each family will be taken on an individual basis. Orchard Childcare Limited are committed to support children and the family.

Traumatic bereavement can cause a child to feel shocked and angry, amongst many other emotions. We know that when grieving a child may feel:

- unwell
- feel sad
- feel angry
- may not want to eat
- become more attached to an adult
- feel lonely
- cannot sleep at nights or have nightmares
- tummy pains
- moody
- cannot concentrate
- Want to scream

For most children, maintaining 'normality' and their routine is key. We will support the child with managing their feelings.

Orchard Childcare are aware that children may include death in their play, and we will reassure them that they can feel happy and enjoy things even when they are grieving. It doesn't mean that they are not sad.

Children are resilient and can understand what is being said in a truthful and clear way. We will be open and honest with children after clarifying with family members what messages have been shared at home.

When staff support a child, we will use clear language and talk about what has happened to the child. We will not use phrases like 'gone to sleep' as this could scare a child into



going to sleep or worry about others. Using terms like 'passed' or 'gone away' are also no helpful as it implies the person is going to return.

Orchard Childcare will liaise with the family about what we can do to support the family, by offering extra sessions, reducing sessions, logistics with drop off and pick up, financial support. Each family will be treated individually and with respect. We will support the adults as well as the children as much as we can.

We will seek professional help from school colleagues, specialist charities and other bereavement support services where needed.

When a parent is undergoing treatment, much of the above policy will be relevant to support the child and family, but each family will be taken on an individual basis. Orchard Childcare are committed to support children and the family.

This policy was adopted by:	Date: 18/08/2025
Orchard Childcare Limited	Review date: September 2026