



This Statement has been adopted and approved by Oxlip Learning Partnership and is to be used by all members of the Trust.

<b>Bereavement – TRUST STATEMENT</b>	
Approved by Trust	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Date of next Review	Autumn Term 2025-2026
Responsible Officer	
Policy Number	

### Definition of a Parent

For the purposes of education law, section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' as:

- all natural (biological) parents, whether married or not;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for the child or young person (this could be a step-parent, guardian or other relative);
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

A person has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child.

### Introduction

The Trust recognises that bereavement is extremely personal and must be tailored to the individual context. Therefore, each academy will adopt their own local policy and guidelines to reflect the duty of care to students and employees that reflects and promotes exceptional care, welfare and support.

### Policies and Procedures

Schools must, through their bereavement policies, set out how they will respond to a death in the school community which includes that of a student, staff member or parent.

The Trustees expect that local policies will be informed by charities such as Winston's Wish, Child Bereavement UK and Cruse Bereavement Care, and their guidance on best practice for schools.

The Policy should establish clear systems for ensuring that the voice of the child/staff member/their family informs the communication and response strategy to reflect our understanding that grieving is highly personal and there can't be a one-size-fits-all strategy.

The Policy should make it clear how follow up actions and ongoing support will be given, in addition to the immediate response. This is to recognise the impact that grief can have on physical and mental health.