**SEN1Fi Life limiting conditions**

Some of our children do have life-limiting diseases or illnesses, and when they do see peers that die, they quite often can be really distressed as they can feel themselves deteriorate. At the moment, we do have a pupil who you can see understands that his illness is getting more chronic and that his life expectancy is probably more limited. And we've seen a change in behaviour, we've seen a change in attitude.

We work as schools as a model of progress, but it might be about maintaining that physicality or maintaining that progress for as long as possible and then accepting that degeneration is part of their condition. But how do we still then make the most of it? It's really easy in those situations to kind of dwell on that degeneration and remember what they were b ut actually you still have to remember today because that's still important. I think, around that. Certainly in our setting, when we have other children with very similar conditions, you then have to really work with those children after they've lost one of their friends.

I think the most shocking thing for me and realisation was when we lost one of our 6th form students, was that the first response from one of her friends was, oh, I wonder if I'm next because I've got the same thing. And you think, oh, gosh, that is a really key realisation for those pupils and a real key milestone. I think for them.

We all know that we will die at some point. We have that realisation. We hope it'll be late in life and that we've had a full and long life, but nobody really knows but when you've got an illness that all of a sudden seems to put a ticking clock on it, how do you manage that so that every day still counts? Because that's so important.

And I think just being open and honest and talking about it is a fact is something that we have to deal with. It's easy to just say, oh, you're fine, you're well and everything, and they will come back and say, well, they were last week, or you've just got to be open and honest and almost follow where they're going with the discussion and even if it's a bit of news that you think will be really hard, then there are ways to address that. But it's still important to be honest with them I think.

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