**Non- Verbal pupils**

For pupils who are nonverbal or maybe have limited communication skills, it's important to understand what they know about death. What's their starting point?

It could be that they don't communicate verbally, but they have a really, good understanding of what happens when someone dies. Using the strategies and tools that, you know, are successful with that pupil is. Is important.

For example, if they use an eye gaze, it's about making sure words like death, dead, died, funeral. Any other words that might be relevant to them are accessible so that they can communicate with you what they understand about what is happening.

It's also helpful to have emotion words that could be associated with grief, again, accessible for them in the context of their grief. They might have signs or symbols to do with feeling sad or angry or upset but having them in a way that they can access them to specifically associate it with their grief is important.

We had a young lady whose grandma had breast cancer, and we couldn't get to what the problem was because she was a non-communicator, and we knew there was something not quite right. So we got the lady from 'Trinity' to come out, and she did working with the speech and language, she did talking mats. And we eventually got to the solution was she was upset because she couldn't cuddle grandma anymore. But that took a lot of work to find out that she was upset that she couldn't cuddle grandma anymore. Yeah, you would never have thought that that would have been an issue for her ........But it was.

But it was in terms of supporting them to express their emotions and express their grief. It's likely that they already have signs or symbols to do with different emotions.

It might be helpful for that pupil to have those feelings words in a specific area, whether that's if they're using a book, there's a particular page with those feelings words on so that they can access those emotions within the context of their grief.

*SEN2C non-Verbal pupils*