**Communication and Language**

With pupils with additional needs, it's important to use the strategies and tools that they are confident and comfortable using and help them to understand the language surrounding loss, death, and grief.

Through those tools it's about empowering them and giving them confidence to express how they're feeling or what they understand and also as professionals working with them to have the confidence to use that clear language and communicate it with them in a way that they will understand.

It might be things need to be repeated or that different strategies are used to really help them understand, but it's about knowing your pupils, knowing what works for them, and trusting the professional judgment that you have, that you use when you work with them every day.

So it was important that we didn't send out or reinforce misconceptions around this being a one off event. And we did that with social stories, and we did reinforce that kind of statistical, kind of hopeful messages of, most people don't die until they're old, very old, hopefully. And they were important messages to send to our pupils to put the death of a peer into context.

SEN3 Communication and Language