**SEN3B Social Stories**

Social stories can be a useful tool to help make sense of some really difficult concepts or to prepare for something that's very unfamiliar or a new experience.

Or it can help to explain maybe what's happened in the lead up to a death, using the pupil's interests, helping to focus on the things that they might already know and bringing those into the story and working alongside a family to bring in any faith, any particular rituals that they might have experienced and what's happening for them at home.

So that the social story can then be used by school and home consistently to help them over and over repeatedly to help them to make sense of what has happened or what might be going to happen.

Very important that we didn't send the message out that this was a one-off experience of death and you weren't going to experience it again, because we don't know when the next time one of our pupils might experience death.

So it was important that we didn't send out again those miss 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 message that 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.

*SEN3B Social Stories*