**SEN3Ci Augmentative and Alternative communication**

Using augmentative and alternative communication with pupils with special educational needs is a really good way of helping them understand difficult concepts such as death. Of course, one of those is to make sure that you are using strategies and tools you know the pupil can access and has had a good experience within the past. It could be that a pupil takes a long time to understand something, and repetition is necessary. A multi-sensory approach may be needed. What's key is adapting the tools and strategies that you already use to enable the pupil to access language surrounding death and grief.

It's also important to communicate with the family at home if they are also using these tools, so that there is a consistent approach in how you are communicating with them. Sometimes, it might be necessary to have speech and language therapists or additional people who work with the pupil to help unpick some of those anxieties and find the best way for them to communicate how they are feeling.

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