**Policy and procedures**

Many schools find it useful to have a bereavement policy, as this can help them through very challenging times within the context of special educational needs. This can be really useful for SEND settings because of the unique set of challenges that they may face when dealing with a bereavement.

For a mainstream setting, supporting a pupil with additional needs, it could be that they need to factor in the adaptations that they may make to allow that pupil to grieve and to help them understand loss, death and grief. A policy can help ensure that roles are allocated to specific members of staff.

So obviously, how you manage the aftermath of a death in school is key, and there's no real right or wrong way. However, I have heard of schools where senior leaders have removed coat hooks, taken pictures down, and physically removed the name from the building to sort of say it's final, it's complete.

But, for staff and for pupils, it takes a lot of work to deal with that message. It's almost too final. They need to go through a process of that naturally happening instead of just being done very, very quickly. It's something that we would avoid doing in our setting now. It's still business as usual. They were part of the school yesterday, so they're still there.

Then, gradually, we would do that over time when it feels right, just like we would at home. If somebody died away at home, we wouldn't all of a sudden throw all of their belongings out and do everything perhaps straight away in that moment. But over time that becomes a more natural progression.

Within a special educational needs setting, there is often a huge range of people working within the school, but outside of that school staffing, these could be therapists, bus drivers, nurses and other medical professionals. Having a policy in place to ensure that there is a clear, consistent path of communication amongst the whole school community is really, really important .

*SEN6 Policy and procedures*