



# Sacred Heart School

Service Before Self

## **Mission Statement:**

The Sacred Heart is a Community committed to the education of its pupils in a Catholic Christian ethos, where each person is invited to serve God and others in faith, hope and love.

## **Aims:**

- To foster spiritual growth in Christian faith and values
- To value, appreciate and enjoy learning
- To work for excellence
- To further curiosity and creativity
- To aspire to high ideals

*Pastoral*

## **Bereavement / Critical Illness Policy**

Bereavement may include loss of a current pupil, a parent, a brother or sister, a member of staff or even a public figure.

Pupils also feel a great sense of loss from a range of problems including marriage break up, serious illness or moving to a new area.

### **Aim:**

- To ensure a compassionate response and atmosphere for any person in the school community who has been bereaved by a death of someone close.
- To act with sensitivity so that others do not feel awkward.
- To ensure teaching staff feel supported.
- To help pupils and staff to pray for those involved and to reinforce the Christian belief that God has prepared heaven for us
- To pray every November for those we know who have died
- To have a culture that speaks of the only thing we are really sure that will happen to us is death

### **Procedures relating to death of a person**

- The school will try always to follow the wishes of the bereaved family
- All staff and pupils will be informed of bereavement as appropriate, possibly class by class
- Prayers may be said at Assembly / Mass for the bereaved family
- A member of staff or one of the Sisters will endeavour to attend the funeral if it is not a private occasion
- Flowers or a donation to charity will be sent as wished
- The Press will only be spoken to by the Headteacher

### **Procedures for other forms of Bereavement**

- All staff should be informed and therefore alert to pupil's situation
- Communicate concerns to a member of the Senior Management
- Senior Staff will discuss situation and decide on action – a) see pupil to see what help they would like if any

b) may contact the Parents.

### **Role of Staff**

- Staff will endeavour to be sensitive to the needs of a bereaved pupil / adult
- Staff will seek help as needed
- May contact local priest
- PSHE is an opportunity for tactful discussion

See also: **Policy on Health**

### **Role of parents / guardians**

- Parents are advised to let the school know when a pupil has been bereaved and remain in touch as necessary

### **Monitoring & Review**

- The Senior Management Team will review any instances where this policy has been applied to see if it is appropriate. Prepared August 2008: Last reviewed Jan 2014 MJH: Next review scheduled Jan 2016

### **Assemblies**

- Assemblies are used to speak about the Catholic Church's teaching on death
- During the month of November prayers are offered for named people every day. ( Pupils write names of those they know who have died on holy cards and these are given out daily in assembly).

### **Resources**

- Fr Gordon, our chaplain is available.
- The Sisters are always ready to counsel pupils, parents and staff. We have the services of a confidential counsellor
- The Norfolk Critical Incident team can supply very useful counselling support in the aftermath of a serious incident
- National Bereavement Trust – among other resources they have cards for bereaved children which they can simply lay on their desk to show how they feel
- Winston's Wish – help for bereaved children
- For younger pupils puppets can be useful
- The Chaplain at Notre Dame School in Norwich (Teresa) is happy to give advice

### **Books:**

- When something terrible happens by Heegaard
- The Goodbye Boat by Joslin and Little
- Not now, Bernard by David McKee
- Muddles, Puddles, and Sunshine by Diana Crossley
- Badger's parting gifts by Susan Varley
- Grandpa by John Burningham
- Millie's Bug Nut by Jill Janney
- The Sad Book by Michael Rosen
- The Hideaway by Bill Merrington (for Senior pupils)

### **For pupils:**

#### **Who do you go to?**

- Probably friends first.
- The Listeners
- The Sisters and Fr Gordon
- Any teacher or member of staff who pupil can talk to
- Deputy Head /Head of Lower School.
- Head Girl or prefects
- LSA

*Prepared August 2008 DPW; Nov 2011, Sr F; Nov 2012, Sr F; Reviewed Jan 2014 MJH, March 2015 HK: Next review Spring 2016*

