



What could teachers do to support children and young people when someone has died? – young people's views

'If you have lost someone close to you then the fact you are managing to get into school is an **achievement**: it's up to teachers to make it as **easy as possible** for you to be there.'

'Spend some time **chatting** to them'

'The teacher should say to them that if they cannot concentrate fully on their studies then **don't worry**, they won't be told off, and encourage them to speak to the teacher if they feel the need to.'

'Often people want one of two very different things: they either want others to act like everything is normal and can get upset or embarrassed by 'special treatment', or they want their problem to be acknowledged. In either case I think it is better for the teacher to **acknowledge it** and offer someone to talk to.'

'They could take time out...just so the child knows **someone cares** about them.'

'I think teachers should be very **flexible** with young people and children dealing with bereavement. They are dealing with a **rollercoaster of emotions** which can change very quickly. This can be hard to deal with during school as it can feel **awkward and embarrassing**.'

'I think one of the most important things the teacher can do is **confidentiality**. They should discuss with the pupil whether or not they would like their classmates to know and they can **decide together** what would be the best way of going about letting others know.'

Supported by:

Diana

THE WORK CONTINUES

The Childhood Bereavement Network is hosted by the National Children's Bureau, Registered Charity No. 258825

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