

For parent and carer champions

Parents and carers are crucial to encouraging schools to take up the *Growing in Grief Awareness* framework.

If you are a parent with first-hand experience of how your child's school responded to a bereavement within the community, then you will be well placed to advocate for the school to *Grow in Grief Awareness*.

You can read more about the framework [here](#). We are encouraging schools to kick off this work by auditing their practice and planning actions to take during the 2019/20 academic year

How you can use the framework

- If your own child has been bereaved and has had a positive experience in school, this can be a way of thanking the school and making sure that other pupils get similarly good support
- If your child has had a difficult experience in school, introducing the school to the *Growing in Grief Awareness* framework can help you structure a conversation to improve support both for them and for other bereaved pupils
- If you have a general interest in how schools support bereaved pupils, the *Growing in Grief Awareness* framework can help you to support them in developing practice in a structured way

Tips for introducing the framework to your child's school

If you would like to encourage your child's school to *Grow in Grief Awareness*, we suggest that you

1. Make an appointment with a senior leader, the special educational needs coordinator or the designated senior lead for mental health. You might prefer to go through your child's class teacher or form tutor first, and get them on board to come with you
2. Send an email with this [introductory information](#).
3. You might want to have a look at the [framework](#) ahead of the meeting and think about which areas your child's school is doing well, and which areas you think could be improved
4. In the meeting, explain why you think the framework could help the school.
5. If your child currently needs more support than they are getting, you may also want to print off our [topic guide](#) for discussions between schools and families, to help structure your conversation
6. Ask the school to feed back to you when they have completed the audit and shown how they are *Growing in Grief Awareness*.

Thank you for championing the framework: this will help improve support for bereaved pupils now and in the future.