A guide for teachers and support staff

We know that it can be difficult when supporting a pupil who is going through a hard time. You don't want to say anything to upset the pupil or families, so taking into account the information below can help you navigate this and have a significant impact on both the families and pupils you are working with.

Acknowledge the change to circumstances for the pupil. "I'm really sorry to hear that your Mum has died, if you need anything at all please let me know."

Be aware of subject choices and the impact this may have on pupils who are going through a bereavement, loss or change. E.g. Poems/stories on death and dying or learning about Cancer or long term illnesses.

Pupils may be offered an "Out of Class" pass to allow them to access a quiet space (Wellbeing Hub) if necessary. If pupil is being disruptive, lacking concentration, encourage them to have some space for 5 minutes.

If pupil is out of class, keep a folder with any worksheets or work they will need to catch up on when they return.

Young people who are off will be behind with their work, help them as much as you can by keeping things up to date and in order. Pupils will need positive encouragement and do not need to repeatedly hear that they are behind or failing.

Be aware that loss of concentration is completely normal, speak to them quietly and don't single them out. Can extra time be provided for homework?