



# CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Sandpits Lane, Keresley, Coventry, CV6 2FR  
CN\_admin@hccmac.co.uk  
[www.cncs.school](http://www.cncs.school)  
T:02476 332382

21 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

Our school community are devastated to have to inform you of the sudden death of Miss Sarah Smith our Head of Performing Arts. Sarah was an outstanding teacher who cared very deeply about the success and wellbeing of each and every one of her students. We will all miss her very much and will spend many difficult moments grieving her loss.

This morning students have been made aware of the news with a special service prepared by our Catholic lead. Local Priests will be in school today to support students and staff and details of organisations that support with bereavement can be found on the next page.

Experiencing loss such as this may affect them in a variety of ways and it is very important that children can ask questions and talk about their reactions. For some children a death of someone they know may remind them of some other loss in their lives. For others, this may be their first encounter with death.

Children may display behaviours such as the following:

- Cling closely to adults
- Display regressive behaviours
- Appear not to be affected
- Think about it privately
- Ask a lot of questions
- Appear frightened
- Appear agitated and angry
- Appear sad and withdrawn
- Display difficulty sleeping
- Stomach aches and/or headaches

We suggest that you make an extra effort to listen to your child during this time. It is important that you deal honestly and directly with any questions that he or she may have. Should you have difficulty approaching this issue or if you would like additional information about talking to your child about death, please refer to the bereavement support on the next page. Below are some other suggestions that parents may find useful in helping their child:

- Be a good listener. Listen carefully for any misconceptions or distortions your child may have.
- Provide physical closeness. Spend extra time with your child. Talk and offer reassurance. At this time we take comfort from our faith and pray.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and to discuss their feelings.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if we can be of additional assistance to you and/or your child during this difficult time.

Please keep Sarah, her family, friends and our school community in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad time - Eternal rest grant unto Sarah, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Yours sincerely

**Ms E O'Connor**  
Headteacher





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## **Teacher Support Network:**

Get Support: 08000 562 561

## **Rainbows:**

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/rainbows-bereavement-support-programme/>

## **Samaritans:**

116 123

Hours: 24 hours, 7 days a week

Website: [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

## **Cruse Bereavement Care:**

For bereavement support call our helpline on **0808 808 1677**.

[www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk) > a

[www.childbereavement.org.uk](http://www.childbereavement.org.uk) - a bereavement support service for children who have suffered a loss

<http://www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk/> An organisation offering bereavement support