



ECLIPSE
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How We Work

ECLIPSE Child Bereavement Service was established in April 2008 and chooses to work alongside schools in the support of bereaved children. We choose this way of working because we recognise that children spend most of their time at school; this is a familiar surrounding and, hopefully, alleviates concerns about meeting our therapists; there are less distractions and there may be school-related issues that occur which can be dealt with directly with staff.

We work through the medium of a memory book. This book is provided free of charge, as are all the resources that will be used in sessions. The service itself continues to be free so that no child is denied our help and support.

We meet with a child on school premises (though some activities may be based at our office, as above, during school holidays), usually fortnightly for approximately one hour. Eclipse issues the child, and school, with a visiting slip with details of each appointment.

Initially, we require a referral form to be filled in by the person who is referring (this may be school, parent, GP, school nurse etc.). We prefer to work only with parental consent.

There may be a waiting list and, therefore, a referral form will put the child firmly on that list. We do, however, make an initial visit upon receiving the referral form so that the child may hear about what we have to offer and make a decision about whether they wish to proceed. We would expect the pupil to let home or school know their decision and contact Eclipse should they wish to continue sessions. Thereafter, if there is a waiting list, Eclipse will contact the school to arrange sessions when the time arises. Eclipse will confirm that the support is still required. We would expect schools to contact parents/carers to make them aware.

Eclipse meets with children until it is felt that they are coping more ably. The sessions will gradually grow further apart and eventually be brought to a close. The child will have preparation for this but we remain available for any who wish to have further support in the future. We cannot give a time-frame for our involvement with a child as each one is unique and every bereavement is different. Grief itself is a process and Eclipse does not offer a 'magic wand'. It may take a long time of support before a child begins to feel steady again.

Eclipse remains committed to children and young people who are struggling to cope with the loss of someone significant. We are available so speak to any concerned parties who require some additional advice or information at the above office number.

