**Support for Staff Working with Children with Life-limiting and Life-threatening Conditions**

Providing an education for very sick children with a life-limiting and life-threatening condition is an unusual, or even rare event for a school. But with 49,000 children under the age of 19 years across the UK and the Children and Families Act of 2014 making it a duty on schools to support children with medical conditions, it is possible for any school to find themselves involved in caring for these children.

This is not just the remit for special schools but rather for all schools. School is about far more than just an education as a place where children are part of their community, make friends, learn about life, are genuinely valued and contribute to school life.

If your school finds themselves supporting a child with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition, there are things you can do to support staff and the school community as best possible. To begin you may like to discuss things with:

* Specialist Teacher for PNI,
* Inclusion Partner
* Educational Psychologist for your school
* Senior Education Psychologist for Social, Emotional and Mental Health in your area.
* SENCO cluster group
* Local specialist School

While it can be difficult to think about unpleasant events that haven’t yet occurred, making a protocol for such eventuality can really help guide and support people if they do occur. Thus, you may like to consider:

* A severe illness protocol where life is threatened
* A bereavement protocol

​There are a number of links below that can provide you with some helpful information and some that offer support too. I hope you find this useful.

[**https://www.childbereavementuk.org/supporting-yourself-and-colleagues**](https://www.childbereavementuk.org/supporting-yourself-and-colleagues)

Has a section called ‘Resources for Professionals’, including the booklet - For professionals - supporting yourself and your colleagues

[**https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/**](https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/)

We are the only UK charity dedicated to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of teachers and education staff in schools, colleges and universities.

[**https://newlifecharity.co.uk/free-helpline/**](https://newlifecharity.co.uk/free-helpline/)

Our FREE national Nurse Helpline offers emotional and practical support to families and professionals caring for disabled and terminally ill children, including specialist health information and social care support. Our team of professionally qualified, registered nurses have a wealth of experience and are committed to putting the needs of children and their families first.

[**https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/**](https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/)

Together for Short Lives is a national recognised charity working in this area. Their website contains a section under the tab ‘Changing Lives’ for SUPPORTING CARE PROFESSIONALS, including [Introduction to children’s palliative care](https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/changing-lives/supporting-care-professionals/introduction-childrens-palliative-care/), [Care pathways](https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/changing-lives/supporting-care-professionals/care-pathways/), and [Resources and research](https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/changing-lives/supporting-care-professionals/resources-and-research/).

[**https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/app/uploads/2018/02/ProRes-Helping-Children-Who-Need-Palliative-Care-To-Access-Education.pdf**](https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/app/uploads/2018/02/ProRes-Helping-Children-Who-Need-Palliative-Care-To-Access-Education.pdf)

A power point presentation about helping children who need palliative care to access education. A resource for schools, colleges and early years providers.

[**https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/app/uploads/2018/01/ProRes-Core-Care-Pathway.pdf**](https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/app/uploads/2018/01/ProRes-Core-Care-Pathway.pdf)

Link to a booklet called ‘A Core Care Pathway for Children with Life-limiting and Life-threatening Conditions’.

This Core Care Pathway has been developed as a tool for professionals who support children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and their families throughout their care journey, from diagnosis through to end of life care and bereavement support.

[**https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/B1675-specialist-palliative-and-end-of-life-care-services-cyp-service-spec.pdf.pdf**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/B1675-specialist-palliative-and-end-of-life-care-services-cyp-service-spec.pdf.pdf)

Specialist palliative and end of life care services Children and young people service specification from NHS England.

This document provides a children and young people service model for delivering specialist level palliative care (SLPC) services from identification of need through to end of life.

[**https://www.hospiceuk.org/hospice-care-finder/little-havens-childrens-hospice**](https://www.hospiceuk.org/hospice-care-finder/little-havens-childrens-hospice)

We work for the benefit of people affected by death and dying, collaborating with our hospice members and other partners who work in end of life care.

[**https://media.gosh.nhs.uk/documents/end\_of\_life\_care\_families.pdf**](https://media.gosh.nhs.uk/documents/end_of_life_care_families.pdf)

A Great Ormond Street Hospital publication - Making choices: information for families of children who have a life-limiting or life-threatening condition