

Young Carer Support and Equality Policy

At our school believe that all children and young people have a right to an education, regardless of their family circumstances.

A “young carer” is a child or young person aged under 18 who has a significant role in looking after someone else who is experiencing illness or disability. As a result he or she may need additional support to get the most out of school; our Young Carers Policy explains how we will provide this support.

School Name:			
Our School	How this will work	When it will happen	Who will help make this happen
1. Will have 2 members of staff with special responsibility for young carers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. These key staff contacts will let all pupils know who they are and what they can do to support them. 2. 		Pupil Support Staff Young carers
2. Will raise awareness of the difficulties faced by young carers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Young Carer awareness raising session will be delivered to classes 		
3. Will support young carers to identify themselves	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young Carer information will be displayed on a school notice board. 		
4. Will ensure the school and its information is accessible to parents who have disability, impairment or school related issue	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school meets the standards of the Disability Discrimination Act. 		
5. Will respect the young carers' right to privacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With parental/young carer consent a confidential note will inform appropriate teachers of young carer names. 		
6. Will support young carers who have difficulty attending out of school activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bus passes are available for pupils attending school related activities after school hours 		

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7. Will be flexible when young carers are required to attend detention classes	1. Arrangements will be discussed with individual young carer/family to ensure detention does not clash with times when support is needed at home		
8. Will support young carers to contact their family when necessary	1. With permission in place a mobile phone can be kept on silent to receive important text messages (e.g. feedback from hospital visit/test results)		
9. Will support young carers to attend appropriate training and respite events which will support their safety, skill development and well-being	1. Key Pupil Support staff will help with school arrangements 2. Information missed when attending events will be given to help young carers catch up with school work		
10. Will be supportive of late arrival at school due to caring responsibilities	1. Primary school - teacher will be informed of the situation by the family/school young carer key staff contact 2. At High School - key contact will be informed, at reception the young carer will complete an appropriate slip stating 'family reason' for late arrival		
11. Will offer additional young carer support in the lead up to exams	1. Teaching staff will discuss available support options with young carers		
12. Will allow absence from school and early class release when young carers need to provide family support in times of crisis	1. This would be arranged through school Young Carer key contact following discussion with the young carer and/or their family		
13. Will support young carers' use of 'get out of class cards' at times of high anxiety or stress	1. The School will support young carer use of a 'chill out' room/area when it is available and appropriate		

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14. Will allow extensions to homework deadlines for young carers	1. Young carers will be encouraged to give as much notice as possible about any deadline issues		
15. Will consider alternatives to young carer exclusion from school	1. Appropriate internal exclusion options will be considered.		
16. Will ensure school staff accesses information and training to promote empathy in relation to disability and illness. Teaching staff will be able to recognise young carer indicators and will understand the impact this might have on their education and wellbeing	1. Information resources will be provided for all school staff 2. Liaise with Young Carer services and information providers		
17. Will make sure that individual children's support plan recognises their specific needs as a young carer	1. This will be done when plans are set up using GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) guidance		
18. Will recognise young carer achievements	1. Young carer achievements (including out of school awards) will be included as appropriate in School Award Ceremonies		
19. Will make sure other school policies and procedures link appropriately with the Young Carers Policy	1. The Young Carers Policy is included in the School Handbook		
20. Will support inclusion in practical subjects and physical education activities.	1. Young carers can wear long sleeved clothing and trousers, or other appropriate protection when required to reduce risk of inappropriate questioning and embarrassment (e.g. to cover evidence of self-harming)		

Legislation and Guidance

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles 28 and 29.

Children and young people have the right to the best available education and to opportunities to develop their personality, mental and physical ability to their fullest potential.

DFES Advice and guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance: groups of pupils at particular risk (replaced Circular 10/99 Social Inclusion: Pupil Support):

- “Young carers should not be expected to carry inappropriate levels of caring which have an adverse impact on their development and life chances. However, there are children and young people who undertake caring roles. Young carers of a sick or disabled relative at home may be late or absent from school because of their responsibilities. A study in one authority suggested there may be up to 30 young carers in a secondary school.”
- “In a genuine crisis, a school can approve absence for a child to care for a relative until other arrangement can be made....”
- “Schools should consider designating a member of staff to have responsibility for young carers. They can also contribute to schemes that support them, working with local authorities and voluntary agencies.”

Effective Attendance Practice in Schools:

An Overview of attendance guidance states that schools should have “support systems in place for vulnerable groups which provide among other things, signposting and access to external support for parents and pupils” and “training for staff on specific needs of pupils e.g. young carers”.

Schools and colleges take responsibility to identify young carers at an early stage and ensure that they have the same access to a full education and career choices as their peers:

- Inclusive policies that enable the identification of young carers and to deliver effective methods of supporting them to achieve their full potential whilst recognising the positives of any acquired skills and attributes
- Schools and colleges provide clear, accessible, up to date information regarding health issues and local community services to all pupils in school. Have procedures for referring to other agencies and sign posting the direction young carers can take in order to gain additional support for them and their family outside of school.
- The curriculum promotes fuller understanding and acceptance of, and respect for, the issues surrounding disabilities and caring, as well as promoting positive images of disability and impairment.
- Staff will have access to information and training to enable them to recognise the indications that a child has a caring responsibility as well as increasing their understanding of such responsibilities, and to ensure that any who are children in need are identified or feel able to ask for help, are listened to and offered direct services and protection if needed