



School Young Carer's Policy

Approved:

Next review:

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1. Introduction

Young Carers look after someone who has a long-term physical or mental health need, disability or misuse drugs and/or alcohol. This may take the form of domestic chores, personal care, supervision, emotional support or any other form of assistance or continuous adaptations to everyday life.

At St John's Primary School, we believe that all young people have the right to an education. If a young person looks after someone, we know they may need additional support to help them reach their full potential, and we strive to meet their needs.

Our school: St John's Primary School has a designated member of staff who has special responsibility for young carers. Currently our designated lead is Chloe Beardwell (Home School Link Worker)

2. Who is a young carer?

Every school has pupils affected by disability and illness within the family. A 'young carer' is a young person who provides care to a member of the family or a friend who has one, or a combination of the following conditions:

- A physical or learning additional need
- A sensory impairment
- A chronic condition
- A terminal illness
- A mental health need
- A drug or alcohol addiction

3. By 'care' we mean:

- Practical: A young carer may be helping with cleaning, cooking, laundry, giving of medication and paying bills and or managing household budgets
- Emotional: May provide a listening ear, provide comfort, helping the cared for feel better about themselves, talking to someone who is distressed (e.g low due to poor mental health)
- Personal: A young carer may assist to help someone get washed or dressed or help to feed them
- Physical: A young carer may be supporting a family member with a disability to move or they may be helping with shopping, such as carrying heavy bags.

4. Identifying a young carer:

Whilst many young carers do well in school, the following issues are common signs pointing towards difficulties at home-some of which will be related to disability or illness within the family.

Pupils may:

- Regularly arrive late to school
- Regularly miss days of school

- Appear physically neglected- missing breakfast, lacking clean uniform etc
- Appear to be regularly tired
- Regularly complaining of feeling unwell themselves
- Anxious and/or withdrawn
- Regularly challenge adult authority (some young carers struggle to switch from an adult role at home to a child role at school)
- Appear more emotionally mature than their peers
- Regular issues concentrating
- Failure to complete homework

Parents may:

- Not respond to school correspondence (due to a communication need)
- Not attend parent's evenings (due to an inability to attend)
- Be on low incomes and unable to afford school related expenses (due to disability or illness related unemployment)

5. Support Offered:

When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or is living with substance misuse, he or she may need a little extra support to help them get the most out of school. Our young carer's policy states how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Our school:

- Has a member of staff with an additional responsibility for young carers and let's all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help
- Provides young carers awareness-raising training for staff
- Provides both individual listening support and group support for young carers
- Recognises that siblings of children with additional needs who, as a result of the high level of support and time needed to be given to the cared for, can be impacted. For example, fewer opportunities for family days out, access to clubs and activities.
- Can put young carers and their families in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also signpost families to other support services
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings
- Respects your right to privacy and will only share information about you and your family with staff who need to know in order to support
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities due to their caring role
- Complies with the Disability Discrimination Act by offering parents with a disability support to get their children into school
- Uses the Pupil Premium to assist eligible young carers in their education, including assessing curriculum based trips
- Runs sessions on young carers in the PSHE program for each year group to ensure all pupils understand the support available and create a 'carer-friendly' culture
- Keep the young carer's information up to date (displayed in the school office and via links on the website)
- Involve young carers in decision making around support, groups and information
- Provide appropriate support for families wishing to discuss their child and/or family's needs