



YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Introduction

Riverview CofE Primary and Nursery School is committed to supporting young carers to access a full education. This policy should be implemented by all staff members in order to ensure young carers at our school are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled. The aim of this policy is to raise awareness among school staff about the needs of young carers and to support them in establishing a whole school approach to address the issues that may arise within a school setting.

Definition

A young carer is someone under the age of 18 years who provides regular and ongoing care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled, elderly or misuses substances.

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. Young carers may be primary carers, such as caring for a parent, or a secondary carer, such as helping to care for a sibling. A young carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care-giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive or inappropriate for that child and risks jeopardising their emotional or physical wellbeing, educational achievement and life chances.

A young carer may undertake some or all of the following:

- Practical tasks
- Physical care
- Personal and intimate care
- Emotional support
- Household management
- Looking after siblings
- Interpretation
- Administering medication
- Taking responsibility of younger siblings
- Financial care

At Riverview CofE Primary and Nursery School, we believe that all young people have the right to an education. If a young person looks after someone, we know that they may need

additional support to help them get the most out of their education, and we aim to meet their needs.

Our school

- Has a designated member of staff who has special responsibility for young carers. Currently our designated lead is Hayley Brown. She will introduce herself to you to offer and arrange any additional support you may require.
- Is sensitive towards young carers' needs, and aims to show discretion. We respect pupils' privacy and will only share information about their circumstances with people who need to know, in order to provide help and to ensure safety. Pupils and parents are consulted before information is shared.
- Can provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Expects pupils to attend registration and lessons on time, every school day. However, we provide reasonable flexibility on attendance if absence is due to providing emergency care. In the event of emergency care being required, absence may be allowed for a short while, and schoolwork sent home, until alternative arrangements for care can be made by the family. Please speak to us if this becomes an issue.
- Has links with local services providing support to families with care needs, including local young carer services.
- Provides both individual listening support and an After School Support group for young carers.
- Liaises with the local authority to provide assistance for disabled parents in getting their children to school.
- Ensures that the school and its communications are accessible for parents with disabilities and health conditions, we use system's such as parent mail so any messages are sent through directly to a parents e-mail.
- Uses the Pupil Premium to assist eligible young carers in their education, including accessing curriculum-based trips
- Follows child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- Will consider alternatives if pupils are unable to attend after school activities (e.g. sports clubs) due to their caring role. Please speak to us if this is an issue.
- Runs sessions on young carers in the PSHE programme for each year group, to help all pupils understand the issues, carers' rights and the support available, and create a 'carer-friendly' environment.