



YOUNG CARERS POLICY

SCHOOL INFORMATION

ST GEORGE'S LOWER SCHOOL

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YOUNG CARERS

This policy is to ensure that Young carers at St George's Lower School are identified and supported within our school and nursery setting, so that they can access the education that they are entitled to.

Who is a Young Carer?

A Young carer is a young person who is helping to care for someone who is at home. This could be for a parent, grandparent, sibling or other relative. The carer may care for one or more members of the family.

The relative that they look after may fall into one or more of the following categories:-

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental Health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance/Alcohol abuse.

Absentee' adult family members:

If an adult carer is regularly absent from the home due to work commitments, leaving a child or young person in sole charge of care provision (e.g. after school, in the evenings, at weekends), then the young person will be eligible for Young Carers

Support which a Young Carer may give

A Young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young carer has to deal with can range from:

- Nursing Care – Giving medication, injections, helping with mobility, changing dressings
- Personal Care – washing, dressing, feeding, helping with toilet requirements.
- Emotional Care – listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a relative through depression, being there to talk to, monitoring state of emotions.
- Domestic Care- washing, ironing, shopping, cleaning and cooking.
- Financial Care – paying bills, sorting out benefits.
- Child Care- looking after younger siblings in addition to their caring responsibilities

Possible effects on education

As a Young Carer, they may have many responsibilities. Ermine Primary realises that their education may suffer. This could be due to:-

- Being late into school/absent from school
- Anxiety as a relative may be ill at home and they may find it hard to concentrate.
- Tiredness
- Emotional

- Homework not completed or handed in on time
- Poor attainment
- Physical pain – back pain due to lifting
- Bullying
- Isolation - unable to have friends at home or socialise with them.
- Low esteem
- Limited social skills
- False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their frustrations or anger)
- Poverty
- Unable to attend after school clubs
- Difficulties in engaging parents, as they may feel embarrassed about their child caring for them, frightened that their child may be taken into social care; unable to attend meetings at school due to their condition.

We believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities.

How can St George's Lower School help Young Carers?

Our school is committed to meeting the needs of Young Carers, so that they are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers.

Our school has a member of staff, Mrs Debbie Nelson, with special responsibility for Young Carers and their families and lets all new pupils and their families know who she is, and that they can access support from her.

The school uses the Pupil Premium for Young Carers who meet eligibility criteria to minimise any barriers to education and learning experiences, to improve their wellbeing, attainment and attendance.

The school has a strong partnership in place with the Young Carers Service Providers and can put Young Carers in touch with them and also put families in touch with other support services.

The school actively seeks feedback and ideas from young carers and their families when appropriate, in order to shape and improve provision for Young Carers.

The School understands the issues faced by Young Carers, what to look for and how to respond.

St George's Lower School will:

- Provide training on Young Carer issues and embed this in on going professional development for governors and all staff.
- Keep up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting Young Carers and their families.
- Ensure that Young Carers know how to access support.

- Ensure that information about support available for Young Carers and how to access it is clearly available to both pupils and families.
- Use the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of and respect for, issues such as caring, disability and impairment. This will be done by embedding the challenges faced by Young Carers into PSHE lessons and the curriculum.
- Ensure that its premises are accessible and welcoming to parents with disabilities and/or illness and offer additional support to enable them to attend parents' evenings or other school events. Home visits will be considered where appropriate.
- Offer additional support to remove any communication barriers with parents, so that parents are able to be fully engaged with the education of their child.

During the school enrolment process for new pupils the school will:

- Identify parents or family members who have disabilities or other long term physical or mental health conditions.
- Identify if the pupil has caring responsibilities and if this Young Carer has any additional needs that should be supported.
- Establish individual plans to recognise the child's/young persons' specific needs as a Young Carer.
- Refer/signpost Young Carers and their families to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate.

Young Carers are respected:

A Young Carer's privacy is respected and information about them or their caring role is not communicated in front of their peers.

A family's privacy is protected and the school only shares information with professionals on a need to know basis in order to support pupils and their families.

The school views Young Carers as any other pupil, but understands that they have the additional pressure of caring responsibilities.

Transition support:

The school offers support to the pupil and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school lead person for Young Carers and their families.

Reducing barriers to education and support:

- The school will ensure intervention is targeted and Young Carers are supported, are able to grow and enjoy life to the full.
- The school uses and evaluates data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by Young Carers and reviews Young Carers plans accordingly.

- The school will allow Young Carers to use the telephone to call home during breaks and lunch times so as to reduce worry they may have about a family member.
- Where appropriate, the school negotiates deadlines, for example for homework.
- The school will consider how best to support those parents who find it difficult to escort younger children to school.
- The school arranges for detention to take place at lunchtime, not after school. The school meets the requirement of the Equality Act 2010.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be monitored and annually or reviewed as required.

Equality Act 2010

The Finance Committee of the Board of Governors assessed the impact of this policy and associated practices, taking account of information received from staff and governors and after having engaged with parent governors, governors and staff, have concluded that this policy has had and will have a positive impact on all those with protected characteristics in relation to the school's obligations under the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010.