

YOUNG CARERS' POLICY

Statement of Intent

We are committed to supporting our Young Carers and have put systems in place to identify and support them.

Definition of a Young Carer

A Young Carer is someone between the ages of 5-18 years who has caring responsibilities for a family member at home who has:

- A serious or long term illness
- A physical disability
- A mental health problem
- A drug or alcohol dependency
- A learning disability

Young Carers may do things like:

- Household chores
- Preparing or cooking food
- Personal care
- Giving medication
- Communicating on behalf of someone else
- Ensuring someone's safety
- Providing emotional support

Indications that a pupil is a Young Carer

The Young Person:

- May be late for school for no apparent reason or have erratic attendance.
- Might be often tired, withdrawn or pre-occupied.
- May have difficulty joining in activities outside of school hours.
- Could be a victim of bullying – may have few friends or skills with own age group.
- May be under-achieving. Often hasn't completed homework or it's of poor quality.
- Could be anxious or concerned over ill/disabled relative.
- May display behavioural/emotional problems.
- Might have physical problems such as back pain from lifting an adult.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but being a Young Carer should be considered a possibility and explored with the Young Person in a private space. The Head of Year or Tutor may refer the pupil to the Key Worker. Our Key Worker is the nominated link with the Young Carers' Service.

Why is it important for this school to have a Young Carers' Policy?

In B&NES Young Carers have explained that they don't always feel supported appropriately at school. Actions from this Policy will improve communication between the school and the Young Carers' Service and support pupils in a way that will benefit them. Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to the needs of Young Carers.

It is the responsibility of everyone working with children to meet the outcomes set out in the Every Child Matters (ECM) document to secure a better future for children, whatever their back ground. These are to ensure children can:

1. Be healthy
2. Stay safe
3. Enjoy and achieve
4. Make a positive contribution
5. Achieve economic well being

This policy will help schools meet these outcomes for Young Carers within their school.

Objectives of this Policy

- To provide all in our school community with an understanding of what a Young Carer is and what their responsibilities may be.
- To clarify our responsibilities for Young Carers and inform parents and pupils
- To enable the creation of generic and individual plans to support Young Carers.

Actions the School will consider to support Young Carers in particular circumstances

1. We will always ensure a confidential approach, providing a private space to speak to Young Carers. We recognise, however, that some Young Carers prefer not to discuss their caring role; but others might find it helpful to discuss their own personal situation with a member of staff or another student. Where appropriate, the school will provide a peer mentor for the Young Carer.
2. We will ensure that all Young Carers are reminded of the anti-bullying policy and ensure that their experience is that this is being adhered to in practice.
3. We will help Young Carers to become aware of what their rights are in school.
4. We will set up a card system for Young Carers to be excused from class if they need to receive a phone call / have emotions they can't deal with.
5. We will set up a "Late Pass" card system for genuine reasons that cause Young Carers to be late.
6. We will use lunch time detentions as an alternative to after-school detentions for infringements of school discipline.
7. We will ensure that all Young Carers are aware of lunch time homework clubs running within the school.
8. We will provide flexibility where possible for coursework and homework deadlines
9. We will provide a service to photocopy a student's notes for a Young Carer, if appropriate, if they miss all or part of a lesson because of their caring role.
10. We will set up individual plans for each Young Carer within the school. These plans may be supported by the Young Carers' Service.

11. We will maintain flexible arrangements for parents with disabilities to access the school / information about the school.
12. We will provide access to a phone respecting the fact that the cared for person may need to be contacted during the day. .
13. Teachers will work actively to refer pupils they think may be a Young Carer to the Young Carers' Service.
14. The School will give Young Carer School Packs to all Young Carers that they become aware of in their school.

Outcomes

1. Governors, teaching and non-teaching staff will be aware that there are Young Carers within their school and understand how to support them.
2. Young Carers will feel that there is more support for them within school and so will be more likely to communicate with the school about their caring role. This will help to maintain an understanding and positive relationship between the pupil and the school and the school and the Young Carers' Service.

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Mrs Taylor (Home School Liaison Officer)

– in school

Off the Record Young Carers Service B&NES

07788146264

Off the Record B&NES

www.offtherecord-banes.co.uk

Online information for professionals and Young Carers

www.youngcarers.net

Childline

0800 11 11

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)

0808 800 5793

Children's Legal Centre

0845 345 4345

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri 10-4)

0845 1 205 204

Parentline Plus

0808 800 2222

Youth Access

020 8772 9900

Bullying Online

www.bullying.co.uk

Policy Adopted by Governing Body: April 2011

Policy Review Date: April 2013