

Lainesmead Primary School and Nursery



Young Carers Policy

Reviewed: **October 2019**

Next review: **October 2020**

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Lainesmead Primary School

Young Carers Policy

Philosophy

We are committed to supporting Young Carers to access education.

Definition: A Young Carer provides care, assistance or support to another family member who has a learning disability, a physical or long-term mental illness, or has a substance misuse problem. They carry out, often on a regular basis, significant or substantial caring tasks, taking on a level of responsibility that is inappropriate to their age or development. Young Carers may also care for parents with periodic spells of illness, such as poor mental health, where in an acute phase; the caring role is sudden and intense.

The nature and extent of the difficulties that young carers face will depend on a number of factors, however, many young carers find that their lives are significantly affected by their caring responsibilities.

Lainesmead also consider Young Carers to be those who are affected by the care of another family member.

Aims and Objectives

- To ensure Young Carers at school are identified
- To ensure Young Carers can achieve their potential
- To ensure that Young Carers and their families are offered or signposted to appropriate support.
- To treat Young Carers in a sensitive way, upholding confidentiality

Responsibilities

- All staff to be vigilant in identifying a Young Carer or pupil at risk of becoming Young Carers.
- All staff to be aware of the difficulties a Young Carer may experience:
 - Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
 - Concentration problems, anxiety or worry
 - Emotional distress
 - Tiredness
 - Lack of time for homework
 - Poor attainment
 - Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
 - False signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles
 - Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
 - Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
 - Isolation, embarrassment to take friends home
 - Limited social skills
 - Low self esteem.
- To recognise that it may be difficult to engage parents (due to fears about their child being taken into care, fears about their condition and being misunderstood)
- To recognise that parents may be unable to attend meetings at school and arrange alternative ways of informing parent's of pupil progress etc
- The Pupil Support Advisor is the designated link teacher for Young Carers and will liaise with the pupil, the parent/carer, relevant agencies and Swindon Young Carers as appropriate.

Organisation and Routines

The Pupil Support Advisor/Assistant Head will keep a list of Young Carers.

The school may be notified of a Young Carer by a family via the school admission form or via an outside agency.

All children know that they can ask to talk to an adult at school if they have any concerns they wish to share.

Young Carers may be offered additional support by the Pupil support Advisor, as well as referred to any outside agencies, as necessary.

All Young Carers will be invited to attend a group lunchtime drop-in each term, to offer the children a relaxed and safe environment in which they can share their experiences and/or socialise with others.

School recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers For example:

- Teachers will be sympathetic towards the Young Carer's needs if homework becomes an issue
- allow access to a telephone in order to phone home during break or lunchtimes
- allow for school work to be sent home if the pupil is unable to attend school for a specific period due to illness of the person cared for

Review

This policy should be reviewed annually and updated with relevant information received from Swindon Young Carers.