



Young Carers Policy

At our school we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home.

When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, he or she may need a little extra support to help him or her get the most out of school.

Through the Christian ethos of our school, we strive to ensure that all pupils are offered opportunities to experience, understand and celebrate diversity

At our school we work closely with Salford Local Authority, Young Carers team; our contact person there is **Paul Moran**.

He works with us in school to;

- raise awareness of young carers
- identify young carers
- offer support to identified young carers

Roles and Responsibilities – see annex 1 for full details

The Governor with special responsibility for Young Carers is Sarah Hughes.

The designated member of staff is Deb Edwards, Children and Families Officer.

Warning signs

Young carers are not easy to spot and many actively try to conceal their caring role from teachers, pastoral staff and peers for fear of bullying or outside interference in their families. All of the warning signs below could be indicators of another problem. However, staff noticing these signs should consider asking the pupil if they are helping to look after someone at home.

- Regular or increased lateness or absence.
- Concentration problems, anxiety, tiredness.
- Under-achievement and late or incomplete homework: may be a sudden unexplained drop in attainment.
- Few or no peer friendships; conversely the pupil may get on well with adults and present as very mature for their age.
- Victim of bullying, sometimes explicitly linked to a family member's disability, health or substance misuse problem.
- Behavioural problems, sometimes the result of anger or frustration expressed inappropriately.
- Unable to attend extra-curricular activities.
- Difficulties in engaging parents; parents not attending parents' evenings.

The role of the Governing Body:

- The governing body will ensure that there is a named governor for Young Carers.
- The governing body will ensure that there is a named member of staff for Young Carers and that they undertake appropriate training.

The role of the Headteacher:

- Oversee the development of the policy for Young Carers
- Ensure that all staff are given the opportunity to attend any relevant training to support them in their work with Young Carers
- Ensure school maintains up to date records of identified Young Carers

The role of the Children and Families Officer:

- To put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service and to signpost families to other support services.
- To be accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involve them in parent teacher meetings.
- To respects the right to privacy and only share information about young carers and their family with people who need to know and are able to support.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. sports coaching, competitions, concerts, due to their caring role.
- Will allows young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Can give parents advice about how to get their children into school where transport is a problem.

Date of review January 2018