

LETHBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

Child Protection

Equalities Policies

Anti-bullying Policy

PSHE Policy

Inclusion Policies

This Young Carers Policy is implemented in conjunction with the following points. At Lethbridge Primary School we support young carers by:

- Providing a named member of staff with lead responsibility.
- Including issues around disability, mental ill health and young carers in PSHE and Citizenship lessons.
- Avoiding stigmatisation or labelling of pupils who are carers and provide guidance on preventing bullying.
- Ensuring parents can access school for open evenings, etc and if this is not possible, consider how links can be made with home.
- Having an agreed confidentiality policy, which includes statements on child protection.
- Ensuring we think about sensitivities and differences around cultural needs, including refugees.
- Considering how information on pupils' pastoral needs can be effectively passed between primary and secondary school or across other phases.
- Providing specific staff training.
- Including mechanisms for effective inter-agency work to support young carers (including child protection procedures if required).
- Including mechanisms to consult with young carers and their parents about content of policies and delivery of support.
- Including methods of regularly evaluating the effectiveness of policy and support (in addition to meeting OFSTED requirements).

At Lethbridge Primary School we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

We acknowledge that there are likely to be young carers among our pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. We have adopted our Young Carers Policy so that we will be able to relieve some of the worries, which young carers may have about home and their school work, and show that we believe young carers education is important.

Who are Young Carers?

Young carers are children and young people whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. They are carrying out tasks and responsibilities, which are additional to those appropriate for their age. The person they look after may have one or more of the following:

- Physical disability
- Mental health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Long-term illness

The person they care for may be a parent, sibling, or grandparent and the care they give may be physical and/or emotional.

Young carers responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (e.g. bathing, dressing, feeding)
- Giving or prompting medication/injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Looking after younger siblings
- Budgeting and paying bills

Young carers can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life is often restricted with few opportunities for fun and after school activities.

Factors which may indicate that a young person is caring include:

- Illness or disability in the family
- Being late or absent (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and/or often tired
- Academic performance below potential
- Homework often uncompleted
- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- Not making use of out of school activities
- Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a safe environment
- Behavioural problems
- Limited contact with school by parents
- Being bullied

If we suspect that someone is a young carer we will be sensitive when we approach them about this, as we appreciate they may not want their peers to know. Before passing this information on to relevant colleagues we will obtain the consent of the young carer.

Support Offered

As a school we will:

- Designate a member of staff with specific responsibilities for young carers (Lisa Mayes). We will make sure all pupils know who this is
- Offer sessions on young carers in PSHE lessons in KS2.
- Give information to the young person about young carers about what information and support is available
- Liaise with appropriate agencies i.e. Swindon Young Carers
- Consider alternatives and be flexible when responding to the needs of young carers. This may include (but is not limited to) access to a telephone at break times, lunchtime detentions, negotiable deadlines for homework or opportunities to do homework at lunch times

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Governing Body will monitor this policy on a two yearly basis and review in September 2017, or earlier if required by legislation.

Reviewed September 2015
Approved by governors September 2015
To be reviewed September 2017