



Lawn Primary and Nursery School

Young Carers Policy Supported by Swindon Young Carers Centre

Responsible Persons:

Sabi Sanghera Family Support Lead Worker

Jenny Cannon: Family Support Assistant

Review: no amendments made

To be reviewed: September 2023

Lawn Primary and Nursery School will ensure that this policy is implemented in conjunction with the following points:

- School to support Young Carers by providing a named member of staff with lead responsibility.
- Include issues around disability, mental ill health and Young Carers in PSHE and Citizenship lessons.
- Avoid stigmatisation or labelling of pupils who are carers and provide guidance on preventing bullying.
- Ensure parents can access school for open evenings, etc and if this is not possible, consider how links can be made with home.
- Have an agreed confidentiality policy, which includes statements on child protection.
- Include thinking about sensitivities and differences around cultural needs, including refugees.
- Consider how information on pupils' pastoral needs can be effectively passed between primary and secondary school or across other phases.
- Provide specific staff training.
- Include mechanisms for effective inter-agency work to support Young Carers (including child protection procedures if required).
- Include mechanisms to consult with Young Carers and their parents about content of policies and delivery of support.
- Include methods of regularly evaluating the effectiveness of policy and support (in addition to meeting OFSTED requirements).
- Include information on Young carers in the school's welcome pack and display posters around the school to
- Include a question on the school enrolment form to encourage disclosure.
- Meet with parents following disclosure to give information regarding Young Carers and make referrals if agreed.

Lawn Primary and Nursery School

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

At Lawn Primary and Nursery 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 believe 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 as recorded on the front cover of this document. We will make sure all pupils know who this person is.
- Provide opportunities for our young carers to meet with the designated members of staff on a regular basis to enable them to have the opportunity to discuss their concerns.
- Provide opportunities for our young carers to be able to share experiences and have some "me" time - activities organised through the Nurture Team.
- Sign up to the Swindon Young Carers ID Card Scheme.
- Offer sessions on Young Carers in PSHE lessons and assemblies.
- Give information to the young person about Young Carers and 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, negotiable deadlines for homework or opportunities to do homework at lunch times.