



Young Carers Policy

Introduction

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

At Oaktree we believe that all children have the right to education, regardless of what is happening at home. We are committed to meeting the needs of young carers so that they are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers. When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, or often looks after younger siblings, he or she may need extra support to help him or her overcome barriers in their learning.

Legislation and Guidance

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 28 and 29)

The Children Act 1989

The Equality Act 2010

DFE Advice and Guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance: groups of pupils at particular risk

National Carers Strategy (1999)

The Children's Society Young Carers Initiative

Policy Aims

We aim:

- To make provision for practice that supports young carers and promotes good communication with their families.
- To help to identify young carers and to deliver effective methods of supporting them to achieve their full potential.
- To provide clear, accessible up to date information regarding young carers.
- To have procedures for referring to other agencies and signposting the direction young carers take in order to gain additional support for them and their family outside of school.



Policy into Practice

Our school:

- Has a school coordinator assigned with responsibility for young carers. Pupils and families will be made aware of the identity of the young carer's coordinator (Jo Vertannes) and how to access support from them. In the event of the co-ordinator's absence the deputy co-ordinator is Lisa Maslin.
- Has whole school training on young carer's issues and how to support them.
- Has an effective referral system and works in partnership with Swindon Young Carers service.
- Enrolment process encourages parents to share information if there are issues of health within the family and if the pupil has a caring role which may have an impact on their educational needs.
- Displays a Young Carers Information board in the staff room to enable staff to recognise the indicators that a child has a caring responsibility as well as increase their understanding of such responsibilities.
- Displays a Young Carers Information board in the corridor outside Rainbow Room so that children feel able to ask for help and talk about their feelings and worries.
- The school uses the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of, and respect for, issues such as caring, disability and impairment for example; embedding the challenges faced by young carers into PSHE education lessons curriculum.
- Uses and evaluates data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by young carers and reviews young carers individual plans accordingly.
- Actively seeks feedback and ideas from young carers and their families to improve provision.
- Has a 'menu of support' available, implemented by the Young Carers Coordinator (working in partnership with the class teacher), that will help meet the needs of young carers.

'Menu of Support' for Young Carers

- Young Carers ID Card Scheme.
- Homework clubs/areas.
- Flexibility on punctuality.
- Flexibility on deadlines where possible.
- Use of telephone should they need to ring home for reassurance.
- Review how some after school clubs could be run at lunch time.
- Systems in place so that young carers can be included on school trips.
- Signposting/support referral to other relevant services for added support where needed.
- Young carer able to identify someone they trust to talk to.
- Buddying/mentoring schemes
- Access to a weekly Nurture Group in Rainbow Room (if needed).
- Free-pass to Rainbow Room daily lunch club.
- Individual Learning Plans where appropriate.
- Transition groups in Year 6 with Pastoral Care Manager from Secondary school.
- Variety of communication methods to keep parents up to date with progress e.g. website, email, telephone, text.
- Flexibility in time/place of parents meetings.



- Providing alternative opportunities for parents/carers to view plays, performances and other activities by making videos/dvds.
- Transport issue advice to parents/carers.

For further information on young carers please visit <http://www.swindoncarers.org.uk/for-carers/young-carers/>

Young Carers Coordinator: Bonnie Devenney

Signed: Sue Rees

Headteacher

Date: September 2020

Signed: Erica Milsom

Chair of Governors

Date: September 2020

Date of Review: September 2021