



Young Carers (Whole School) Policy

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Description: This policy outlines the School's approach to young carers.

OUR SCHOOL AIMS

- ❖ *To be a safe and trusted foundation for our pupils to achieve their individual academic, social and creative potential.*
- ❖ *To cultivate the skills, knowledge, self-awareness and academic credentials our pupils will need to confidently meet the challenges of our rapidly changing world.*
- ❖ *To instil and nurture a strong sense of social responsibility, integrity and environmental awareness so our pupils positively contribute to a sustainable and just society.*
- ❖ *To guide each pupil in the discovery, delight and development of their individual gifts, talents and character.*
- ❖ *To create and sustain an inclusive and contemporary school culture, where diversity, difference and individuality are recognised and celebrated.*
- ❖ *To prioritise physical and emotional wellbeing across every facet of our school community.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At Lingfield College Prep School we are aware that pupils in our school may well have caring roles at home.
- 1.2 We believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities.
- 1.3 When a young person does look after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, they may need a little extra support to help them get the most out of school.
- 1.4 We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers and to support any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.
- 1.5 We aim to support young carers through a whole-school approach and through working with other agencies and professionals, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the young carer.
- 1.6 The School is committed to keeping up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families.



2.0 DEFINITION

2.1 A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with or carrying out a significant physical or emotional caring role and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be undertaken by an adult.

2.2 They can be caring for any of the following-

- Parent or sibling suffering from mental health issues
- Parent or sibling with a physical disability
- Parent or sibling with entrenched substance misuse problems
- Parent or sibling with learning disabilities
- Parent or sibling with a chronic or terminal illness

3.0 YOUNG CARERS AND THE EFFECTS ON THEIR EDUCATION

Being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- 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 and frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

4.0 PREP SCHOOL VIEW

4.1 The School views young carers as any other pupil, but understands that they have the additional burden of caring responsibilities.

4.2 The whole school is 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.



5.0 SUPPORT OFFERED

The School ensures that the following support is available for all young carers within our school.

- The School has identified Mrs Jacky Shackel (Head Prep School) and Mrs Emma Parsons (Deputy Head Pastoral Senior School) as our young carers representatives. Their names and roles are made known to parents when joining and on the website.
- During the enrolment process for new pupils, the school will identify via a form whether: parents or family members have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health problems. The pupil helps to look after them and if this has an impact on their education.
- Pupils who are young carers will be identified along with any additional needs that they may have.
- The school will use and evaluate data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by young carers.
- The school, where necessary, will aim to offer support to improve attendance and the pupil's well-being.
- The right to pupil's and families' privacy will be respected and the school will only share information with professionals and agencies on a 'need to know basis' in order to support pupils and families.
- When a young carer leaves the school, either to proceed into further education or for any other reasons, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school subject to consent from the young carer and his/her family.
- The school recognises that young carers and their families need to receive coordinated support by the school, working in partnership where appropriate with general practitioners, young carers' services, behaviour and education support teams.
- Young carers and families will be referred or signposted to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate.
- The school adheres to the Disability Discrimination Act (1995, 2005)
- The school is accessible to parents with disabilities and/ or illness, offering additional support to enable them to end Parent / Teacher Consultations or other school events.
- The school will offer additional support to remove any communication barriers with parents, so that parents are able to be fully engaged with the education of their child.
- The School's PSHE programme will encourage positive approaches to support young carers. It will promote a full understanding, acceptance of and respect for issues such as caring, disability and impairment.
- The school will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities due to their caring role. This may include lunchtime detentions rather than after school ones for example.
- Where necessary, the school will allow young carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member.

6.0 OTHER POLICIES

This policy should be read in line with other key policies including the Anti-Bullying Policy.



7.0 USEFUL RESOURCES

- 'Developing a school policy for young carers and their families' The Princess Royal Trust for Carers & The Children's Society
- Young carers, parents and their families: Key principles of practice
- Young Carers: Guidance for Schools and Local Authorities
- DCSF Advice and guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance: groups of pupils at particular risk

Last review: August 2023

Next review due August 2024



Young Carers

We would like to gather some information on any pupils who carry out the role of being a Young Carer.

My child in Year is a Young Carer for
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Number of hours (approx) each week devoted to being a Young Carer

Do you feel your child gets enough support from School in their role as a Young Carer?
Yes / No

What other support does your child need in their role as Young Carer?
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What would you like School to do to raise awareness in the School about Young Carers?
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