



Shawfield Primary School

Young Carers Policy

January 2021

Written: January 2021

Reviewed:

Next Review: January 2024

Introduction

Shawfield Primary School is committed to supporting Young Carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure Young Carers at Shawfield Primary School are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

Definition

Young Carers are children aged 5-18 who look after someone who has a long-term physical or mental health problem, disability or a problem with drugs or alcohol. This may take the form of domestic chores, personal care, supervision, emotional support or another form of assistance.

Caring Tasks

Young Carers may have whole or shared responsibility for looking after a sibling, parent, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a Young Carer may care for more than one family member and/or may have a disability themselves.

The caring tasks that a Young Carer may have to deal with can range from:

Nursing Care – giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility etc.

Personal intimate care – washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements.

Emotional care – being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.

Domestic care – doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc.

Financial care – running the household, bill paying, benefit collection etc.

Childcare – taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

Aims

At Shawfield, we believe that all young people have an equal right to education. If a young person looks after someone, we know that they may need additional support to help them get the most out of their education, and we aim to meet their needs. We acknowledge that being a Young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. As a result 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.
- Behaviour problems.
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home.
- Limited social skills.
- Bullying.
- Low self-esteem.
- Feeling like no one understands and that no support is available.
- It might be difficult for parents to engage with school.

At Shawfield, we have a designated member of staff who has special responsibility for young carers. Currently our designated member of staff is Mrs. Angela Dixon, Pastoral Care Lead.

Our designated member of staff will introduce themselves to you to offer and arrange any additional support you may require. The designated member of staff or school:

- Will be sensitive towards young carers' needs and aims to show discretion. We respect pupils' privacy and will only share information about their circumstances with people who need to know, in order to provide and to ensure safety. Pupils and parents are consulted before information is shared.
- Expects pupils to attend registration and lessons on time, every school day, if able. We provide reasonable flexibility if absence is due to providing emergency care or a bereavement.
- Has links with local services providing support to families with care needs, including Surrey Young Carers'.
- Provide additional support for young carers, and flexibility on work deadlines, as appropriate and required.
- Provide both individual listening support and a support group for young carers.
- Provide access to a telephone to enable contact with home during breaks, if appropriate and required.
- Assist parents with disabilities and health problems in accessing parent's evenings and communicates in a way that meets their needs.

- Will consider alternatives if pupils are unable to attend after school activities (e.g. sports clubs) due to their caring role.
- Run sessions and assemblies on young carers in the PHSE programme for each year group, to help pupils understand issues, carer's rights and the support available.

Links with other policies

This policy links to the following other school policies and procedures:

Anti-bullying policy

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

Equality Policy

SEND Policy