



Young Carers Policy

At Oakley Cross Primary School, we believe that all children and young people have the right to learn, enjoy and achieve, to be the best that they can be, regardless of their home circumstances. *Article 23*

We believe in supporting all children to achieve and attain at the highest levels throughout their education and it is our responsibility to provide and support each individual child or young person so that they gain maximum benefit from the services available to them. A young carer may need extra support to help him or her get the most out of education. Young Carers may need additional support to access learning in school or at home due to difficulties that may arise due to their caring responsibilities.

We have developed our Young Carers Policy to show how we will support any pupil who helps to look after someone at home and to demonstrate how we will try to relieve some of the worries which young carers have about home and their school work.

Defining a Young Carer:

A young person under 18 years of age who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem.

Caring can involve physical or emotional care, or being responsible for someone's safety and wellbeing. The level of responsibility assumed by a young carer is often inappropriate to their age and beyond the level of simply helping out at home as part of the process of growing up.

Our Young Carers Policy was developed with help from the Young Carers Group, School Ambassadors and members of the teaching staff.

Oakley Cross Primary School acknowledges that there are likely to be a number of young carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on their education.

Young Carers might experience:

- Being late or absent because of responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry, tiredness in school
- Emotional distress
- Poor attainment
- Lack of time for homework
- Becoming angry or frustrated
- Isolation - feeling no-one understands
- Bullying
- Low self-esteem

We will

- Have a designated member of staff with special responsibility for young carers,
- Let all new pupils know who the designated member of staff is,
- Put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service,
- Run PSHE lessons on the challenges faced by young carers,
- Respect the right to privacy and only share information with people who need to know in order to help a young carer,
- Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring,
- Allow young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtime if they need to check on people who they care for,
- Ensure that staff are aware of the warning signs which may indicate that a pupil is a young carer by providing staff with in-depth training led by professionals from the Young Carers Service,
- Be accessible to parents/carers who have mobility/communication difficulties and involve them in parents' evenings, etc.
- Participate in 'Active Families' from September 2019 to support children and families emotional and physical health,
- Provide emotional support for children and their families to nurture their resilience and general well-being.

Approved by Governors

Date: February 2019

Review Date: February 2021