



WILLOW
BROOK
PRIMARY

Willow Brook Primary
Young Carers Policy

Date: October 2017

Review Due: Sept 2018

Reviewed Annually

Introduction

At Willow Brook Primary, we believe that all children and young people have the right to learn, enjoy and achieve, regardless of what is happening at home.

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.

What does 'Young Carer' mean?

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, in some cases, unsuitable to their age and beyond the level of simply helping out at home as part of the process of growing up.

Willow Brook Primary acknowledges that there are likely to be 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 in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Becoming angry or frustrated
- Isolation – feeling no-one understands
- Bullying
- Low self esteem

Commitment

Willow Brook's commitment to young carers is to support the emotional and academic needs of young carers to achieve in their education and to become confident young people, regardless of complexities of needs and home.

We will

- Have designated members of staff with special responsibility for young carers, Miss Jen Walton and Miss Sophie Minor.
- Let all new pupils know who the designated members of staff are.
- Asking feeder schools/early-years providers to inform the school if a pupil has already been identified as a young carer.
- Checking School Census data on pupils with disabilities, to identify sibling carers on the roll.
- Checking whether any young carer status has been recorded on the Common Transfer File (sent to the new school via the Department for Education) when a pupil transfers to your school from another, and checking and including this information when transferring a pupil.
- Asking other schools attended by siblings to tell you when the sibling has been identified as a young carer.
- Establishing information sharing protocols with the school nurse, young carer services and health and social care services to ensure that, with appropriate consent, the school is informed when they identify young carers attending, or about to start your school.
- Put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service or other outside agencies that may be able to provide further help and support.
- Run PSHE lessons and assemblies 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.
- Implementing and reviewing individual pupil support plans and/or provision maps, which recognise the pupil's specific needs as a young carer.
- Using tracking of young carers on internal management systems and actively engaging with young carers and their families, for example drop-in sessions and questionnaires, to shape and improve provision for young carers.

Provide young carers

- Provide facilities for young carers to meet where possible and develop a Young Carers group within school.
- Ensure that staff are aware of the warning signs which may indicate that a pupil is a young carer.
- Be accessible to parents/carers who have mobility/communication difficulties and involve them in parents' evenings, etc.