

Urchfont C. E. Primary School

Young Carers Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Urchfont CE Primary School is committed to enabling young carers to access education and support. This policy aims to ensure young carers at this school are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education and other services to which they are entitled.

2. Definition

- 2.1 Young carers are children and young people who provide care to another family member. The level of care they provide would usually be undertaken by an adult and as a result of this they take on a level of responsibility that is inappropriate to their age and development. This is likely to have a significant impact on their childhood experiences.

The person they look after will have one or more of the following:

- Physical disability
- Sensory disability
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

3. Caring Tasks

- 3.1 A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member.
- 3.2 The caring tasks that a young carer has 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
 - In cases where a young carer is supporting an adult with drug/alcohol misuse problem, they will often take a leading role in trying to keep that person safe. Domestic care doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc.
 - Financial care running the household, bill paying, benefit collection etc.
 - Child care taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.
 - Communication communicating on behalf of the adult or family with & interpreting agencies/services and interpreting for a language or sensory impairment.

4. Possible effect on education

- 4.1 School acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's access to education and attainment.
- 4.2 Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might:
- Have erratic or poor school attendance
 - Arrive late at school
 - Decline in academic achievement
 - Not complete homework
 - Not attend out of school activities or school trips
 - Lack motivation
 - Have back problems, aches and pains patterns of being generally unwell
 - Appear withdrawn, isolated from peers, have difficulties socialising
 - Show, anxiety, depression, anger, self-harming behaviour
 - Have poor concentration (due to worrying about the person who is cared for)
 - Have poor home/ school relationship
 - Have parents who do not attend parents evening or lack of overall contact with school
 - Have false signs of maturity, assuming an adult role in social situations or have difficulty enjoying childhood activities.
- 4.3 It also might be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about child being taken into care, fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called into question). School may need to make alternative arrangements for communication about attainment.

5. Support Offered

- 5.1 Urchfont CE Primary School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education and opportunities offered through the life of a school. Through this policy, school is giving the message that young carers' education and school experience is important.
- 5.2 The designated school lead for young carers is Mrs Carol Talbot, who will liaise with relevant colleagues, Wiltshire Young Carers and other relevant agencies with the consent of the young carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated link.
- 5.3 Urchfont C Primary School will ensure that appropriate information is shared with school staff in order that there is an awareness of the young carer's situation.
- 5.4 Urchfont CE Primary School will provide young carers with opportunity to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- 5.5 Urchfont CE Primary School appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- 5.6 Urchfont CE Primary School will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- 5.7 Urchfont CE Primary School will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school and other appropriate services/agencies.
- 5.8 Urchfont CE Primary School will follow safeguarding procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- 5.9 Urchfont CE Primary School will promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.
- 5.10 Urchfont CE Primary School recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):
- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to phone home

- Negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)
- Access to homework clubs (where these are available)
- Lunchtime detentions rather than after school detentions (where possible)
- Arrangements for schoolwork to be sent home (where there is a genuine crisis).
- Any approved absence for a young carer will be time limited (DfE 2006)
- Access for parents with impaired mobility
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to School

6. Monitoring and Review

6.1 The Headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of provision and report to the Governing Body.

This policy has been agreed by the Governing Body.

Policy written April 2019

Review due: April 2022

Signed: _____(Chair of Governors)

Date:_____

Appendix 1

School Lead for Young Carers

Background to the role

A young carer is a child or young person who provides care for another family member. The level of care they provide would usually be undertaken by an adult and as a result of this they take on a level of responsibility that is inappropriate to their age and development.

The person or persons that they look after will have one or more of the following:

- Physical disability
- Sensory disability
- Learning disability
- Mental health problems
- Chronic illness
- Drug or alcohol misuse problems

They may also be taking on a caring role if they are:

- growing up with disabled siblings,
- in a family where there has been recent serious or terminal illness diagnosed,
- coping with illness in wider family.

Appendix 2

Identifying a Young Carer in school

Signs which may indicate that a child is caring for someone at home may include:

- Arriving late at school
- Missing days at school
- *Tiredness*
- Hunger
- Clothing or appearance may not be clean or tidy
- Underachievement
- Unable to complete home work on time
- Withdrawn, over sensitive, low self esteem
- Behavioural problems
- Difficulties with peer group, limited social skills
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Not attending after school activities or activities in local area
- Non- attendance on school trips, particularly residential
- Being bullied
- Financial difficulties
- Physical problems, such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, from assuming adult roles

Parents may have little or no contact with school, be unable to attend parents evenings, review days, or social activities

Appendix 3

The Young Carers Charter

Everybody has rights and responsibilities. The Young Carers Charter was drawn up by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers. It sets out the rights to which young carers are entitled. At Urchfont we will ensure that all young carers be given the opportunity to sign up to the Charter and commit to identifying and supporting our young carers.

The Charter

'We are children and young people who are also carers. We want people to recognise this. We believe we should have the same rights as other children and young people' including the rights:

- To be children and young people as well as carers
- To attend schools and colleges that give us the help we need to get an education
- To have fun, friends and time off from caring
- To have a well- supported family life
- To have practical help and support
- To a safe environment and protection from harm, including any harm that our caring roles could cause us
- To services that value our different backgrounds, culture, religion, race, gender and sexuality
- To be listened to
- To an assessment of what we need as individuals
- To be involved when people make decisions which affect our lives
- To have a wide range of information that would help us
- To someone who will help us have a voice (advocacy)
- To understand how things work and how to complain if we want to
- To choose how much caring we do, and
- To become independent adults.

We are a school that recognises supports and ensures young carers enjoy these rights.

Signed _____

Headteacher.

Signed _____

Chair of Governors.