



Young Carers Policy

Date: 11/19

Review date: 11/20

Young carers look after someone who has a disability, long-term illness, mental health problem, or a problem with drugs or alcohol. Young carers may be taking care of a family member or a close friend. This may take the form of nursing tasks, domestic chores, supervision, emotional support or communication support.

At Oakhurst Primary School, we believe that all young people have the right to an 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.

Our school:

- Has a designated member of staff who has special responsibility for young carers. Currently our designated liaison is Mrs Whitmell. They will introduce themselves to all Young Carers ~~(and their parents/carers?)~~ to offer and co-ordinate support.
- In the event that Mrs Whitmell steps down from her role, a new member of staff shall be appointed as our young carers designated liaison.
- Has a tab dedicated to information about Young Carers is on our website and includes a link to Swindon Carers Centre (<https://www.swindoncarers.org.uk/young-carers/>)
- Has a letter for parents/carers on our website regarding the role of Young Carers, including a reply slip if required.
- Has a letter to parents/carers, regarding young carers that is included in our Induction Pack at the beginning of each academic year and is provided to new starters during the school year.
- Is sensitive towards young carers' needs and aims to maintain discretion. We will respect your privacy and will only share information about you and your family with people who need to know, in order to help you, and to ensure your safety. We will consult with you before sharing information. We can put you in touch with our local Young Carers Service and other support services.
- Provides additional tuition for young carers, and flexibility on work deadlines, as required. Please speak to us if you require this support.
- Provides both individual listening support and a support group for young carers.
- Provides access to a telephone to enable you to call home during breaks, if required.
- Expects young carers to attend registration and lessons on time, every school day, if able. We provide reasonable flexibility on attendance if absence is due to providing emergency care or a bereavement. In the event of emergency care being required, absence may be allowed for a short while, and school work sent home until alternative arrangements for care can be made by the family. Please speak to us if this becomes an issue.

- Liaises with the local authority to provide assistance for disabled parents in getting their children to school.
- Assists parents with disabilities and health problems in accessing parent's evenings, and communicates in a way that meets their needs.
- Will consider alternatives if young carers are unable to attend after school activities (e.g. sports clubs) due to their caring role. Please speak to us if this is an issue.
- Runs sessions on young carers in the PSHE and Citizenship programme for each year group, to help all pupils understand the issues, carers' rights and the support available.