

Bilton Church of England Junior School

Policy for: Young Carers

Formed by: Mrs S Hodgson

Date of original formation: March 2015

Ratified by the Governing Body on:



Table of review and modifications

Date reviewed	Page number of changes	Summary of changes made
Jan 2019		No changes

Young Carers' Policy

At Bilton Junior C of E school we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home. When a child looks after someone in their family who has a long term physical or mental health illness, a disability, or misuses substances then he or she may need extra support to help them get the most out of school. This Young Carers' Policy says how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Defining a Young Carer

A Young Carer is under 18 years of age and helps to look after a family member who has a disability, long term physical or mental health illness, or misuses substances. Caring can involve household chores, personal care, emotional support, communication support or looking after siblings and themselves. The level of responsibility assumed by a Young Carer is often inappropriate to their age and at a level beyond simply helping out with jobs at home which is a normal part of growing up.

Identifying a Young Carer

Unless the school is advised about a pupil's home circumstances, Young Carers risk first being identified by negative aspects of their behaviour or work. Some Young Carers worry about bullying or interference in their family life and may seek to conceal their role from their peers and from teachers.

Some of the warning signs that might indicate that a pupil has unrecognised responsibilities are:

- Regular lateness or unauthorised absence, possibly increasing
- Tiredness in school
- Erratic response to homework with incomplete, late or non-compliance to set tasks
- Lack of concentration, anxiety or worry
- Under-achievement for potential capability
- Behavioural problems, especially inappropriate responses possibly resulting from anger or frustration
- Few or no peer friendships but possibly with a good relationship with adults and presenting as very mature for their age
- Victim of bullying, perhaps linked to a family member's disability or state of health, e.g. substance misuse or due to Young Carer not being perceived by peers as dressing in the latest fashion
- Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities, especially after school
- Apparent parental disinterest due to non-attendance at parent's meetings.

All the warning signs mentioned may be indicators of a range of problems, some not associated with caring, however in dealing with any pupil exhibiting any of the signs staff should consider asking the pupil if they are helping to look after someone at home. Staff should also enquire from colleagues with pastoral responsibilities for the pupil. Education Welfare Officers and Education Social Workers, together with pastoral support staff, investigating pupils causing concern should also consider the possibility of caring roles, especially when working directly with family members. Any concerns about a pupil who may be considered as yet unidentified Young Carer should be reported to the member of staff with responsibility for Young Carers (the Young Carers Lead) as should new information about already identified Young Carers. The Young Carers Lead responsible for co-coordinating Young Carer support is the key person in school through which relevant matters need to be passed.

It is much better to start from a positive base so our enrolment process will seek to establish if:

- The pupil lives with a family member who has a disability or long-term physical or mental health illness.
- The pupil has a responsibility for looking after that person over and beyond normal inter-personal relationships within a caring family setting.
- The family is in contact with a support service that could help reduce their reliance on the pupil.

Some families will choose not to disclose this information. Any information gained as a result of this process will be held on the pupil's personal file, kept securely and made available in the first instance to the Young Carers Lead. We will respect the right to privacy and will only share information about Young Carers and their families with people who need to know in order to be able to help. Before sharing information with anyone else, we will seek consent from the Young Carer and from a parent.

School support for identified Young Carers

- Our school Lead for Young Carers is Mrs Hodgson, with Miss Cullum acting as deputy. They will be the point of contact for Young Carers and their families and will liaise with the Young Carers' Service. Mrs Hodgson's name is displayed on Young Carers posters displayed in the school, on the school website and in the school reception area.
- Awareness raising sessions will take place including assemblies, PSHE lessons and staff and Governor training.
- Wherever possible staff will talk to Young Carers in private and not in front of their peers.
- Information about the Young Carer and their family will only be shared with people who need to know in order to help.
- Young Carers have the option to be put in touch with the local Young Carers' Service once they fit the criteria.
- Where possible we will negotiate deadlines for homework etc in advance of them being set.
- Additional support needs for Young Carers struggling to achieve their potential will be identified and provided where appropriate and in consultation with Young Carers' Service.
- Alternatives for Young Carers unable to attend out of school activities due to their caring role will be considered.
- We will liaise with support services to ensure that we can refer and signpost families to additional help.
- If a parent is unable to travel to parent's sessions due to family circumstances, we will try to make alternative arrangements. The Young Carer or parent may request this.
- We will provide advice about how young people can get into school where transport is a problem.
- The school is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication problems.
- We seek feedback and ideas from Young Carers and their families.
- Establish individual pupil support plans for those Young Carers with specific needs where appropriate.
- We allow Young Carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunch times so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member.
- The Young Carers Lead keeps up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting Young Carers and their families.

Children Act 2004

Young Carers may meet the definition of a 'child in need' under the Children Act 2004 and may be entitled to an assessment from Children's Services. In the event of any Young Carers being considered to be at risk of significant harm the school's Child Protection procedures should be followed.

Equality Act 2010

Young Carers have protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act because they are associated with a family member who has a disability or illness and cannot be discriminated against because of this.

Children and Families Act 2014

The Act has a section on Young Carers and, in conjunction with the adults-focused Care Act, seeks to make sure Young Carers get the support they need. Local authorities are expected to try and identify Young Carers so they can be offered support.

We welcome any child, parent or family member who wishes to discuss their family circumstances so that we can help the child in achieving their potential.

Policy dated: March 2015

Review and renewal due: March 2020

This policy has been prepared in consultation with Bilton C of E Junior school and the Warwickshire Young Carers' Project.



Other related policies:

Safeguarding & Child Protection

(Available in the staffroom and on our website)

Whistleblowing:

(Also available in the staff room)

- We cannot expect children to raise concerns when staff fail to do so.
- Whilst it is not always a comfortable thought, staff must be aware of their duty to raise any genuine concerns about attitudes or actions of colleagues. Our Whistleblowing policy allows this to happen in a professional way.

Bullying

(Also available in the staff room and to parents on our website)

- Our policy on bullying acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures.

Health & Safety

(Also available in the staff room and to parents on our website)

- Our Health & Safety policy reflects the consideration we give to the protection of our children both within the school environment and when away from the school when undertaking school trips and visits.

Special Educational Needs

(Also available in the staff room and to parents on our website)

- We recognise that statistically children with behaviour difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory and/or behavioural problems are particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

Attendance

(Also available to parents on our website)

- We recognise that full attendance at school is important not only for the child's education, but also to the well-being of the child. Attendance at Bilton Junior School is monitored regularly and we work closely with Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Team where concerns are identified.

Staff Conduct

(Also available in the staff room and to parents upon request)

- Our policy provides clear advice on appropriate and safe behaviours for all adults working in our setting.

Behaviour Management

(Also available in the staff room and to parents on our website)

- This policy gives clear guidance on expected behaviours to parents, staff and pupils.

Missing Child

- This policy provides clear guidance as to how to respond when a child goes missing during the school day.

Before and After School Activities

- Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, the Governing Body will seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place for safeguarding/child protection and there are arrangements in place to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.