



**Runwell Community
Primary School**

YOUNG CARERS

This Policy was formally adopted on 29th March 2022

Policy to be reviewed annually

Next review March 2023

Summary of Recent Updates and Changes

Date	Description

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Aspire – Believe – Connect

At Runwell Community Primary School, we believe that all pupils have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home. When a young person looks after someone in their family, who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, they may need a little extra support to get the most out of school. This Young Carer's Policy outlines as a school how we aim to support any pupil, who is a carer.

Our school

- Has key members of staff, with special responsibilities, for young carers and lets all new pupils know, who these members of staff are and how they can help
- The school has an effective referral system and strong partnership in place, with relevant external agencies, including referral to Young Carer agencies providing key workers, who will work with young carers and families
- Can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service and will signpost families to other support services available to them
- Respects the right of the young carer, to privacy, and will only share information about them and their family with people, who need to know, in order to help
- Is accessible to parents, who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings and meetings
- Will consider alternative provisions, if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. sports events, school trips, due to their caring role
- Have experienced members of staff, who can offer specialist interventions, to support the pupils emotional wellbeing and mental health, through school intervention e.g. emotional wellbeing, regulation and coping skills, NLP4kids coaching, art therapy and access to an onsite school counsellor
- Promotes inclusive strategies, such as: class worry boxes, quiet zones, and time out cards
- Offers a lunch time alternative to the playground and dining hall - 'Lunch Bunch' -where pupils can access key members of staff, to talk about any concerns or just come and have lunch, in a nurturing environment
- Allows Young Carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes
- Being flexible in relation to punctuality, attendance, and completion of work
- Can give parents advice about how to get their child/ren into school, where transport is a problem
- Run PSHE lessons, on the challenges faced by young carers
- Provides regular staff training and pupil assemblies to develop a culture of awareness

Our School Leaders for Young Carers

Miss Stevens – Pupil and Family Support Worker

Mrs Anthony – Head Teacher

Miss Jupe – Inclusion Manager and Assistant Head Teacher

Miss Seaman – Deputy Head Teacher

Mrs Mann – Art Therapist and LSA

Mr Reeves – NLP4kids practitioner and LSA

We will strive to achieve best practice for pupils and families in our school, in order to provide them with the best chance of success in their future.

Aspire – Believe – Connect

Identifying a Young Carer

Unless the school is advised about a pupil's home circumstances, Young Carers run the risk of being identified by negative aspects, which are a result of their circumstance, e.g. poor attendance, being unprepared for the school day, poor behaviour or attitude to work. Some Young Carers worry about bullying, do not want to be seen to be different from their peers, fear repercussions or interference in their family life, and may seek to conceal their young care responsibility from their peers and staff. Many young carers, and the people around them, do not even realise they are carers.

Defining a Young Carer

“The term young carer should be taken to include children and young people under 18, who provide regular or ongoing care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled, or misuses substances... a young carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care-giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive, or inappropriate for that child, risking impacting on their emotional or physical well-being or educational achievement, and life chances.”

– The Children's Society 2013



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