Seven Fields
Primary School

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Young Carers Policy

Supported by Swindon Young Carers

To be reviewed: September 2018

At Seven Fields Primary School we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

We have adopted our young carer's policy so that we will be able to relieve some of the worries, which young carers may have about home and their school work, and show that we believe Young Carers' education is important.

Who are Young Carers?

Young Carers are children and young people whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. They are carrying out tasks and responsibilities which are additional to those appropriate for their age. The person they look after may have one or more of the following:

Physical disability
Mental health issues
Learning difficulties
Alcohol or drug misuse
Long-term illness

The person they care for may be a parent, sibling or grandparent and the care they give may be physical and/or emotional.

Young Carers responsibilities may include:

Personal intimate care- (eg. Bathing, dressing, and feeding)
Nursing care- Giving medication, injections, changing dressings and assisting with mobility.
Emotional Care- Being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person being cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.

Domestic care- Doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc.
Financial Care- running the household, bill paying etc
Child Care- Taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

We acknowledge that there are likely to be young carers among our pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Due to the additional responsibilities at home a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting.
- False signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles.
- Behavioural problems- taking out their anger or frustration
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities.
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home.
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Low self-esteem.

Support Offered

Seven Fields Primary School will:

- Provide Young Carers with opportunities to access a drop in session with key staff where they can meet someone in private. We will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.

- Appreciate that Young Carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's role will be acknowledged and respected.

- Treat Young Carers in a sensitive and child centred way, upholding confidentiality.

- Ensure Young Carers can access all available support services in school. This can be on a 1:1 basis with key staff, as well as to be invited to attend a monthly Young Carers after school club.

- Follow child protection procedures regarding any Young Carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

- Provide staff access to information to enable them to recognise indications that a child has a caring responsibility.

- Include methods of regularly evaluating the effectiveness of policy and support(in addition to meeting OFSTED requirements)

- To invite Swindon Young Carers to come into school once a year to share information to children and staff in school assemblies

In addition, Seven Fields Primary School will recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers, and that we will ensure that this policy is implemented in conjunction with the following points.

Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunch time, to phone home.

- Negotiable deadlines for homework (when needed)

- Access to homework clubs (if available)

- Arrangements for school work to be sent home.

- Access for parents with impaired mobility.

- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or house bound.

- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school.

- Liaise with appropriate agencies i.e Swindon Young Carers.

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