



Young Carers Policy

Reviewed by: Wellbeing Committee

Version: 1

Last Reviewed: -

Reviewed on: 14th June 2016

Adopted by FGB on: 5th July 2016

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Williams', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

(Chair of Governors)

Next Review: May 2017

At Ysgol Treffynnon we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

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.

We have adopted our Young Carers 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.

1. 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
- Substance misuse
- Long-term illness

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

Young Carers' responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (e.g. bathing, dressing, feeding)
- Giving or prompting medication/injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Looking after younger siblings
- Budgeting and paying bills

Young Carers can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life is often restricted with limited access to the opportunities that their peers experience.

2. Factors which may indicate that a young person is caring include:

- Illness or disability in the family
- Being late or absent (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and/or often tired

- Academic performance below potential
- Homework often uncompleted
- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- Not making use of out of school activities
- Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a 'safe' environment
- Behavioural problems
- Limited contact with school by parents
- Being bullied

If we believe that someone is a young carer we will be sensitive when we approach them about this, as we appreciate they may not want their peers to know. Before passing this information on to relevant colleagues / services we will obtain the consent of the young carer.

3. Support Offered

As a school we will:

- Designate a member of staff with specific responsibilities for Young Carers. This person is Mary Jones or Rob Chesters in her absence. We will make sure all pupils are aware of this.
- Sign up to and implement the A2A card scheme.
- Offer sessions on Young Carers in PSHE lessons across all years
- Give information to the young person about Young Carers and contact details of Barnardo's Flintshire Young Carers Service
- Liaise with appropriate agencies i.e. Flintshire Young Carers
- Consider alternatives and be flexible when responding to the needs of Young Carers.
- Liaise with young carers in the school community.
- Ensure access to the YPCS.

This may include (but is not limited to) ability to use their mobile phone or access to a school phone as and when appropriate, lunchtime or prearranged detentions, flexibility in deadlines for homework/coursework or opportunities to do homework at lunch times, opportunity for a time out and, where appropriate, flexibility around start finish times and time off to support cared for person with appointments.