Young Carers Procedures



At Mayflower High School we are aware that pupils at our school may have caring roles at home

We believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities.

When a young person does look after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, they may need a little extra support to help them get the most out of school.

We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers and to have a separate policy for young carers stating how we will support any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

We aim to support young carers through a whole-school approach and through working with other agencies and professionals, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the young carer.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with or carrying out a significant physical or emotional caring role and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be undertaken by an adult.

They can be caring for any of the following-

• Parent or sibling suffering from mental health issues

•Parent or sibling with a physical disability

• Parent or sibling with entrenched substance misuse problems

• Parent or sibling with learning disabilities

• Parent or sibling with a chronic or terminal illness

Young Carers and the effects on their education

Being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person’s education. Due to their 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 and frustration)

• Lack of time for extra-curricular activities

• Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home

• Limited social skills

• Bullying

• Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available

• Low self esteem

Support offered

Mayflower High School ensures that the following support is available for all young carers within our school.

* Miss Z Baines (Safeguarding Officer) has been identified as lead practitioner for Young Carers and is a point of contact for both pupils and parents/carers. Miss C Davies will act as Deputy lead practitioner.
* During the enrolment process for new pupils, parents/carers can identify if their child has caring responsibilities at home.
* The school will use and evaluate data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by young carers.
* The school, where necessary, will aim to offer support to improve attendance and the pupil’s well-being.
* Information about the support available for young carers and how to access it will be made clearly available to both pupils and families.
* Young carers and families will be referred or signposted to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate.
* The school will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities due to their caring role.
* The school respects young carers right to privacy and will only share information about them and their families in line with the Safeguarding Policy.
* The school will allow young carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member.
* The school actively involves young carers as a group and supports them on an individual basis.

Mayflower High School is committed to keeping up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families.