



Young Carers

Chew Valley
School

Young Carers Policy

1. Rationale

1.1 At Chew Valley School we believe that all children and young people 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, he or she may need a little extra support to help him or her get the most out of school. This policy is in accordance with the Children and Families' Act 2014 which strengthens young carers, young adult carers and their families rights to be identified, offered information, receive an assessment and supported using a whole-family approach.

2. Definitions

2.1 A Young Carer is someone between the ages of 5-18 years who has caring responsibilities for a family member at home who has:

- A serious or long term illness
- A physical disability
- A mental health problem
- A drug or alcohol dependency
- A learning disability

Young Carers may do things like:

- Household chores
- Preparing or cooking food
- Personal care
- Giving medication
- Communicating on behalf of someone else
- Ensuring someone's safety
- Providing emotional support

2.2 Ways to identify Young Carers:

The Young Person:

- May be late for school for no apparent reason or have erratic attendance.
- Might be often tired, withdrawn or pre-occupied.
- May have difficulty joining in activities outside of school hours.
- Could be a victim of bullying – may have few friends or skills with own age group.
- May be under-achieving. Often hasn't completed homework or it's of poor quality.
- Could be anxious or concerned over ill/disabled relative.
- May display behavioural/emotional problems.
- Might have physical problems such as back pain from lifting an adult.

3. Aims of the policy

- 3.1 To provide all in our school community with an understanding of what a Young Carer is and what their responsibilities may be;
- 3.2 To clarify our responsibilities for Young Carers and inform parents and students;
- 3.3 To ensure that Young Carers know who to approach for support, and to tailor support packages for Young Carers.

4. Guidelines

Our school will:

- Have a member of staff with special responsibility for Young Carers and let all new students know who they are and what they can do to help.

- Use transition opportunities to gather information that may help to identify Young Carers.
- Run a PSHE lesson on the challenges faced by Young Carers.
- Put Young Carers in touch with the local Young Carers' Service, and also put families in touch with other support services, if wished.
- Be accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties, and involve them in parents' evenings.
- Respect a Young Carer's right to privacy and only share information about them and their family with people who need to know.
- Consider alternatives if a Young Carer is unable to attend out of school activities, e.g. detention, sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role
- Allow Young Carers access to phones in order to call home during breaks and lunchtimes.

5. Conclusion

It is hoped that reviewing this policy and adopting an approach of seeking out and supporting Young Carers will allow these young people the opportunities to learn, grow and achieve.

Other useful information sites:

<https://babble.carers.org/>

<https://www.banescarerscentre.org.uk/youngcarers/>

Committee: Curriculum and Pupils

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