



Young Carers Policy

Bradon Forest School is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers at Bradon Forest School are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person (under 18 years old) who helps to look after someone. This may be at home but could also be a person who lives away from the family home. Most are caring for a parent, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. It may also be the case that the young carer is looking after a family friend.

In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one person.

The person(s) they look after will have one or more of:

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or sharing responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young carer has to deal with can range from:

- **Nursing care** - giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility etc.
- **Personal intimate care** - washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements.
- **Emotional care** - being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person 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, benefit collection etc.
- **Child care** - taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

At Bradon Forest 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. Our Young Carers Policy says how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Our aims:

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students



- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

Our strategies:

- To include space on school application forms for parents to declare:
 - a) Whether or not their child is a young carer
 - b) Whether or not their child is registered as a young carer
- To create a young carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff
- To appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision
- To monitor the progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- To monitor the attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- To make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case-by-case basis regarding issues such as lateness to school, late homework and poor attendance
- To ensure that young carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary
- To offer young carers extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection
- To support young carers in getting to and from the school where necessary
- To ensure that young carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the school provision for young carers
- To offer a programme of careers advice and guidance and, where possible, work experience placements
- To maintain and regularly review our young carer's policy. This will be reviewed annually
- The school will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and staff will not discuss their situation in front of their peers
- The school appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they



feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected

- The school will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality
- The school will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school
- The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):
 - a) access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime to phone home
 - b) negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)
 - c) access to homework clubs (where these are available)
 - d) identifying support for them and their family to enable them to attend school trips and educational activities
 - e) access for parents with impaired mobility
 - f) alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound
 - g) advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school
 - h) Access to school for wider support i.e. food bank

Our school:

- Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help.
- Can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings.
- Respects your right to privacy and will only share information about you and your family with people who need to know to help you.
- Will 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.
- Allows young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Complies with the Disability Discrimination Act by offering disabled parents support to get their children into school.

Further information and support can be obtained from contacting Ms Rufaro Maposa via the school office or by email rmaposa@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk