

Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School

Young Carers Policy

“Come with me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”.

Matthew 11:28

Introduction

Temple Ewell CEP School is committed to enabling all pupils in achieving their potential. We recognise each individual and strive to develop the whole child in their education: academic, wellbeing, social and emotional needs.

This policy aims to ensure young carers at Temple Ewell CEP School are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

Reference should also be made to the SEND policy, SEND Information Report and Mental Health and Well Being policy.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone at home. Most are caring for a parent commonly in a single parent family, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one family member. The person they look after will have one or more of :

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental Health challenges
- Chronic Illness
- Substance misuse problem

Caring Tasks

A young carer may take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share 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, etc

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

Possible Impact on Education

Temple Ewell CE Primary School acknowledges that there are young carers among its pupils and that 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 or challenges 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 (communicating anger or frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

Support offered

Temple Ewell CE Primary School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy we want to give the message that young carers' education is important.

Mrs Wallace, Inclusion Manager, is the key contact for Young Carers in the school. She works in close liaison with Mrs Matthews, Head Teacher and SLT, class teachers and assistants and the well-being team, Mrs Beamish, Nurture Lead, and Mr Lecarpentier, Sports and Wellbeing Coach.

Mrs Fox, Young Carers group lead, provides a monthly group for respite activities. This is planned and managed in collaboration with Mrs Wallace. Referrals for the group are made by parents. Being a registered young carer is not a requirement of membership of the group. Mrs Fox is a parent volunteer with a wide range of experience and is a member of our wider Wellbeing change team. She is DBS checked and follows the school's confidentiality and safeguarding guidelines.

Our Nurture Provision provides supportive learning for pupils where needed. Additional sports activities are available pupils where it is deemed supportive of their needs. We have a graduated approach to wellbeing support across the school. This is detailed in our MH and EWB Processes and Offer document.

The school runs a monthly Parent Network Café which gives parents a context for relaxed, friendly discussion and sharing of skills and experiences.

Temple Ewell CE Primary School is dedicated to :

- Provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and 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 caring role will be acknowledged and respected
- Treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality
- Ensure young carers can access all support services in school
- Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at significant risk of harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
- Promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for the issues surrounding the roles of Young Carers
- Provide staff access to information and training to enable them to recognise indications that a child has a caring responsibility
- Work closely with outside agencies to access personalised support including referrals to counselling services and links to local Young Carers groups

In addition, Temple Ewell CE Primary School recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to) :

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime to phone home
- Negotiable deadlines for homework (when needed)
- Access to homework club
- Access for parents with impaired mobility
- Alternative communication options for parents where needed
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties transporting a Young carer into school.

Mrs S Wallace

Reviewed and updated 2021