**Race Leys Infant School**



**Young Carers policy**

**Originator: Jo Johnson**

**Issue Date: September 21**

**Agreed by staff:**

**To be reviewed: September 23**

**Ratified by Governors:**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Monitored by: Louise Duncan**

“Learning together we can reach for the stars”

## Race Leys Infant School

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| **Policy Title** | **Young Carers Policy** | |
| **Responsible committee** | **Curriculum and Standards** | |
| **Rationale** | At Race Leys School we believe that all children have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home. When a child looks after someone in their family who has a long term physical or mental health illness, a disability or misuses substances, then he or she may need extra support to help them get the most out of school. This Young Carers Policy says how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home. | |
| **Purposes** | Give a clear definition of Young Carers in our school.  Understand the indicators that a young person may be caring for a family member.  To advise parents and carers of the support available to families.  To ensure staff are aware of the young carers project and are proactive in identifying possible young carers. That staff discuss their concerns about Young Carers with the school Lead.  School aims to develop a robust system for identifying, supporting and developing a whole school approach to ensure young carers are given the best chances to learn in school. | |
| **Definition** | A Young Carer is someone under the age of 18 whose life is in some way affected because of a caring role for a family member. The Young Carer may be impacted by what is going on at home and may help in different ways such as doing household chores, providing personal care, administering medication, giving emotional or communication support, looking after siblings or themselves. The level of responsibility assumed by the young carer can be inappropriate for their age and at a level simply beyond helping out with jobs at home which is a normal part of growing up. | |
| **IDENTIFICATION** | Our School identifies Young Carers from our admissions form, where we ask about other people living in the household with long term health conditions, disability and Mental health illness. We do this specifically to help us identify Young Carers quickly and therefor offer timely and age appropriate support.  Some of the warning signs that might indicate that a pupil has unrecognized responsibilities are:   * Regular lateness or unauthorised absence, possibly increasing * Tiredness, lack of concentration, anxiety or worry * Erratic response to homework with incomplete, or late work * Underachieving for potential capability * Behavioral problems, especially inappropriate response resulting from anger or frustration * Few or no peer friendships but possibly good relationships with adults appearing older than their age. * Lack of engagement in extra curricular activities. * Apparent lack of interest in child’s learning from parents who do not attend parent’s evenings or other parent events.   All the warning signs mentioned are broad but it should be considered if a child is showing these issues that they could be asked if they need help at home.  Our enrolment will now seek to establish if parents or family member have a disability or long term illness for the purposes of supporting these children in school. This information will be shared with the Lead for Young Carers. Any information gained will be stored securely. We will respect the right to privacy and this information will only be shared who need to know in order to help that child. Before sharing any information we will seek consent from parents. | |
| **SCHOOL SUPPORT** | * A member of the school will be the lead for Young Carers with in school. They will be the point of contact for Young Carers and their families and will liaise with the Young Carers service. Their name will appear on posters and Young Carers information in school. * Where ever possible staff with speak with Young Carers in private about their home life. * Young Carers will be offered a referral to the young Carers service wherever suitable. * Additional support will be identified and provided where appropriate and in consultation with the Young Carers service. * We will liaise with support services to seek additional support for all families. * We seek feedback from families about improving school for Young Carers and their families. * The Young Carers lead will keep up to date with local and national developments and policy for young Carers * Will seek advice and ideas from Young Carers about improving the support offered. | |
| **Guidelines** | **Planning**  Advertise the young cares project in school by using assemblies, newsletters and posters.  Targeted interventions for those families we know have a disabled or mental health issue in the home.  Access support from Young Carers project worker to ensure we are progressing with initiative.  Ensure paperwork completed by parents can identify those children who may be Young Carers.  **Values**  Young Carers will feel valued and supported in school. Young Carers are an important part of school, home and the wider community and school will acknowledge this.  **Evaluation**  A robust system for identifying and referring Young Carers to additional support systems should be developed and sustained by the Lead in school. The numbers of referrals should be tracked. This should be tracked alongside the objectives of the referral such as improved attendance.  **Role of the School Lead**  To liaise with the Young Carers project on a regular basis (termly) To ensure staff are aware of the indicators for identifying a Young Carer and the process for referrals.  To make and follow up any referrals made to the Young Carers service.  To consider the development of a peer support group in school which will meet to discuss additional support the school can offer, and explore further activities for the group.  To ensure other policies such as the ant bullying policy meet the needs of our Young Carers.  Signpost parents about their support needs. | |
|  | Children’s Act 2004  *Most Young Carers will meet the definition of a “child in need” under the Children’s Act and may be entitled to an assessment from Children’s services. In the event of any Young Carer being considered at risk the schools Child protection and safeguarding policy will be followed.*  *Equality Act 2010*  *Young Carers have protected characteristics as defined by the Act because they are associated with a family member who has a disability or illness and cannot be discriminated against because of this*  *Children and Families Act 2014*  *The Act has a section on Young carers and, In conjunction with the Adult focused Care Act, seeks to make sure Young Carers get the support they need. Local Authorities are expected to try and identify Young Carers and offer support.* | |
| **Further details contained in documents** | Children act 2004  Equality Act 2019  Children and Families Act 2014  Warwickshire Young Carers Schools Pack | |
| **Date Approved**  **9/2021** | | **Next Review Date**  **9/2023** |
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| **Signed:** | **Date:** |