



Young Carers procedure

September 2024

# Young Carers Procedure

## 1. Introduction

At Evergreen Primary Academy, we recognize the significant role that young carers play in their families. We are committed to identifying and supporting young carers to ensure they have equal access to education and opportunities.

## 2. Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is a child or young person under 18 who provides care for a family member with a physical or mental illness, disability, or substance misuse issue. This care can include practical tasks, emotional support, and personal care.

## 3. Identification of Young Carers

- **Self-Identification:** Students can self-identify by completing a questionnaire available at the school office or by speaking to a designated staff member.
- **Staff Identification:** Teachers and staff will be trained to recognize signs of young carers, such as frequent lateness, tiredness, or anxiety.
- **Parental Notification:** Parents can inform the school if their child is a young carer.

## 4. Support for Young Carers

- **Designated Young Carers Lead:** Toni Dorse will be the designated lead for young carers, responsible for coordinating support and acting as a point of contact.
- **Peer Support Groups:** Regular meetings for young carers to share experiences and support each other.
- **External Support:** Referrals to external agencies such as the Carers Support Centre for additional help and resources.

## 5. Training and Awareness

- **Staff Training:** Regular training sessions for all staff to raise awareness about the challenges faced by young carers and how to support them.
- **Student Awareness:** Assemblies and classroom discussions to educate students about young carers and promote a supportive school environment.
- **Student Involvement:**
  - **Awareness Campaigns:** Organize school-wide campaigns where students can participate in activities like poster-making, presentations, and fundraising events to raise awareness about young carers.
  - **Buddy System:** Implement a buddy system where students volunteer to support young carers, providing them with a peer to talk to and share experiences.

- **Clubs and Societies:** Encourage school clubs and societies to include sessions on young carers and how they can support their peers.

## 6. Parental Involvement

- **Communication:** Regular communication with parents to keep them informed about the support available for young carers and any relevant school activities.
- **Workshops and Meetings:** Organize workshops and meetings for parents to provide them with information and resources on supporting their child who is a young carer.
- **Feedback:** Encourage parents to provide feedback on the support their child is receiving and suggest improvements.
- **Support Network:** Create a support network for parents of young carers to share experiences and advice.

## 7. Confidentiality

- **Privacy:** Information about young carers will be kept confidential and shared only with relevant staff members on a need-to-know basis.
- **Consent:** Written consent will be obtained from the young carer and their family before sharing information with external agencies.

## 8. Monitoring and Review

- **Regular Reviews:** The young carers' support plans will be reviewed termly to ensure they are effective and updated as needed.
- **Feedback:** Regular feedback will be sought from young carers and their families to improve the support provided.

## 9. Contact Information

- **Young Carers Lead:** Toni Dorse [toni.dorse@clf.uk](mailto:toni.dorse@clf.uk)
  - **Carers Support Centre:** [<https://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk/young-carers/> 0117 965 2200]
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