




Bright Stars

Rudston Primary School and
Bright Stars Nursery

Young Carers Policy

Date: September 2019

This policy and all school policies are produced in accordance to guidance set out in our school legislation and guidance policy.

Approved By Governors: September 2019

Review Date: Autumn Term 2021

Our Mission Statement:

To develop a love of learning,
enabling all children
to reach their full potential.

* Respect * Resilience *
* Responsibility * Enjoyment *
* Challenge *

Safeguarding Statement:

“Rudston Primary school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Introduction

Rudston Primary School is committed to supporting young carers' emotional, educational and personal development to enable them to aspire and achieve in education regardless of complexities of their personal needs and home circumstances. This policy sets out how we will live up to our commitment to increasing young carers' participation in education and supporting young carers with special education needs in conformity with Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework (September 2015) on monitoring young carers progress in education, the provisions of The Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 96) and The Children Act 1989 (Section 17ZB amended).

Definition of a young carer

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with and providing regular significant personal, physical or emotional care support to another family member, assuming a level of responsibility which would usually be associated only with an adult.

A child or young person can be caring for any of the following reasons:

- Parent or sibling with mental health problems
- Parent or sibling with a learning or physical disability
- Parent or sibling with an entrenched alcohol or substance misuse problem
- Parent or sibling with a chronic or terminal illness

Young Carers and the effect on their education

Being a young carer can have a serious adverse effect on a child/young person's education.

Because they struggle to balance their care responsibilities at home with expectations at school, a young carer is likely to regularly experience any one or more of the following:

- Being late or absent due to fulfilling care responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems in the classroom
- Emotional distress – anxiety, anger, fear, worry, self-doubt
- Mental and/or physical fatigue or tiredness
- Lack of time to complete coursework/homework on time or at all
 - Academic underachievement relative to peers
 - Physical problems such as back pain from lifting or other physical care duties
 - False signs of maturity linked to assuming adult roles and responsibilities
 - Attitudinal/Behavioural problems e.g. isolation; challenging; disruptive; disengaged
 - Lack of time for extra-curricular activities at school or at home
 - Aloof/Isolated - embarrassed to take friends home
 - Limited social skills and missing on 'normal' childhood/adolescent life experiences
 - Bullying – victim or perpetrator
 - Feeling that no one understands or cares about them and that no support is available
 - Low self-esteem and a feeling of being incompetent (often unjustified)

Support offered

Rudston Primary School undertakes that the following support is available for all young carers within the school:

- Rudston Primary has an identified primary young carers link/representative who is Allison Mulvaney, Deputy Head teacher. A second named person is Pat Charnock, Stepping Forward Lead.
- All staff are made aware of who their young carers representatives are and the internal reporting/referral process to these persons. Children will be referred by teachers or teaching assistants to the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher in the usual way should any staff member have concerns about a child who may be taking on a Young Carer role.
- Any child/young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at Rudston Primary School will be referred to appropriate services subject to his/her consent.
- When a young carer leaves the School, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school subject to the consent of the young carer and his/her family.
- School will be flexible with occasional late attendance due to a young carer's caring role; where this is a regular occurrence of lateness provision will be put into place to find a solution complying with all current policy.
- Rudston Primary School will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent to staff and that appropriate support is sourced.
- Rudston Primary School acknowledges that young carers will not be obliged to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. A young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Rudston Primary School will ensure young carers can access all available pastoral and other support services at school.
- Rudston Primary School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Rudston Primary School will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime for young carers to call home.
- Rudston Primary School will seek to negotiate reasonable deadlines with young carers for completion and submission of homework (when needed).
- Rudston Primary School ensure that young carers have access to a homework club.
- Rudston Primary School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility.
 - Rudston Primary School will provide alternative communication options for parents of young carers who are sensory impaired or are housebound; this will include alternative communication options for parents' evenings.
 - Appropriate provisions will be put into place for young carers whose parents do not drive due to illness or disability. (Following safe guarding procedures at all times).
- Rudston Primary School will always report any cases of a child/young person who may be carrying out an inappropriate caring role which is causing immediate concern for their safety in line with the schools safeguarding and child protection procedures.
- Rudston Primary School will work in partnership with Barnardo's Action with Young Carers Service to ensure that a high quality standard of support for young carers is achieved at all times.
- Rudston Primary School will commit to accessing and providing training for staff about young carers and their issues.