



Highcliff Primary School

Young Carers Policy

September 2016

Young Carer Provision at Highcliff:

At Highcliff we are aware that pupils in our school may have caring roles at home. We believe that children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities. We recognise that a young carer may need a little extra support, to help them get the most out of school.

We aim

- To understand the issues faced by young carers
- To support young carers through a whole school approach
- To work with other agencies and professionals
- To support the whole family in the best interests of the young carer.
- To keep up to date with both local and national developments, legislation and guidance.

The school's Young Carers Champion is: Anne Temple

A young carer is ' a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person (of any age, except where that care is provided for by payment , pursuant to a contract or as voluntary work). This relates to care for any family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances (Section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014)

A young carer is eligible to service from Leicestershire Local Authority if they

- Meet the above definition
- Are undertaking care inappropriate for their age.
- Are negatively impacted as a result of their care role (physical, mental health, family, social and peer relationships).

A young carer is a vulnerable person who may experience difficulty in their education. They may

- struggle to attend school and make good progress
- be bullied
- have punctuality issues
- display concentration problems
- have emotional and well-being issues including isolation, low self-esteem and depression

A young carer may be involved in

- preparing meals
- physical care such as lifting and physiotherapy
- personal care such as washing, administering medication
- domestic tasks such as budgets, washing and ironing, collecting prescriptions
- emotional support
- sibling care
- interpreting due to hearing or speech impairment or EAL issues

What will we do at Highcliffe

1. We will have a named senior staff member with lead responsibility for young carers. The 'Young Carers Champion' will be the main point of contact for all the issues concerning young carers and support. They will raise awareness among all school staff, ensuring that the whole school is committed to meeting the needs of young carers. Contact details for the Young Carers' Champion will be included on a Local Authority held database of champions. The Young Carers Champion will inform the Local Authority on a termly basis, regarding the numbers of young carers at the school, their needs and the support offered to them and their families.
2. We will endeavor to identify young carers and offer them and their families support so that they can access fulltime education.
3. We will treat all young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way and uphold confidentiality.
4. We will follow child protection and safeguarding procedures regarding any young carer who is at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate caring responsibilities and we will refer to First Response as appropriate.
5. We recognise that every young carer's situation is different and that flexibility is required when responding to their needs. We can consider 'reasonable adjustments' to help the individual e.g. access to the telephone, alternative access for parents with mobility issues to attend parents' evenings, homework clubs.

All governors and staff will:

- Support the local authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of young carers

Reviewed September 2016