

Young Carers Policy at Moorlands Primary School



Anything is Possible!

These words reflect our ambition, drive and belief that EVERYONE at Moorlands Primary School can fulfil their true potential in all aspects of their learning!

What is a YOUNG CARER?

A young carer is a person under the age of 18, who is helping to look after someone at home caring for a parent, sibling or grandparent/ relative. Who may have one or more of:

- Physical or sensory disability
- Learning disability
- Mental health problems
- Alcohol or substance misuse problems
- Elderly or infirm
- HIV /AIDS

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities for their age; a young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member.

The caring task that a young carer has to deal with can range from:

- Nursing care: giving medication, injections, changing dressing, assisting with mobility
- Personal intimate care; washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements
- Emotional care; listening and supporting the cared for through mental health issues
- Domestic care: house work, cooking, cleaning, laundry
- Financial care: running the household finances
- Child care: taking responsibility of younger siblings in addition to their own caring responsibilities

At Moorlands Primary School we acknowledge that there are likely young carers amongst our students and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education.

As a result of the additional responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to their caring roles and responsibilities
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness
- Lack of time for home work
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems caused by carrying out caring needs
- An increased level of maturity as a result of assuming an adult role
- Behaviour issues, outburst or withdrawn
- Lack of time for extra curriculum activities
- Social skills. feeling isolated and unwilling to make friends
- Being bullied for their caring role
- Low self esteem
- Parental engagement difficulties, due to fear of their condition being miss understood or parenting skills being questioned
- Parents unable to attend parent days

EXTRA SUPPORT

We recognise that young carers may need extra support to ensure they feel supported and have equal access to education.

As part of our duty of care and whole school commitment we will:

- Include a self-identification box on enrolment forms
- Identify our young carers
- Have a young carers lead who is responsible for helping young carers. Our lead will be identifiable by a certificate on pupil and the staff notice board, including details of how they can be contacted. Our Young Carer's lead is Mrs K. Roberts, who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Treat all our young carers in a sensitive manner
- Up hold confidentiality
- Ensure young carers can access support services
- Put our young carers in touch with our local young carers services (Sandwell young carers)
- Follow child protection and safe guarding procedures
- Promote discussions and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate an understanding acceptance and respect for the issues around disabilities and caring
- Comply with the disability discrimination act
- Ensure all staff have an awareness of how to recognises a young carer who has not been identified
- Help with transition to a young adult carer (YAC).

AVAILABLE PROVISION

At Moorlands Primary School we recognise that flexibility is needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

Provisions includes:

- Access to a phone during breaks and lunch times to phone home
- Negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework
- Access to Talk and Toast before school
- Identification of a member of staff that they can go to
- Access for parents with impaired mobility
- Alternative communication options
- Advice regarding transport issues and signposting
- Home visit where necessary, to ensure young carers have access to support for their role