



Rudgwick Primary School

Young Carers Policy

Inspire - Believe - Achieve



Our Vision:

Rudgwick Primary School aims to be a community where everyone is inspired by a love of learning, is supported and encouraged to believe in themselves and is enabled to achieve success.

Review by: Head Teacher

Date for review: 01/04/25

Approve by: Head Teacher

Frequency of review: 3 years

Commitment

Rudgwick Primary's commitment to young carers is fully support them in overcoming barriers to learning that being a young carer may pose.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with or carrying out a significant physical or emotional caring role and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be undertaken by an adult.

They can be caring for any of the following-

- Parent or sibling suffering from a mental health problem
- Parent or sibling with a physical disability
- Parent or sibling with substance misuse problems
- Parent or sibling with learning disabilities
- Parent or sibling with a terminal illness

Young Carers and the effects on their education

Being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger and frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

Support offered

Rudgwick Primary ensures that the following support is available for all young carers within the school.

- An identified young carers representative: Mrs Vicky Fielder (SENDCo)
- All Teaching Staff are trained in Safeguarding.
- All staff are made aware of who their young carers representative is through staff induction and staff handbook
- All school staff who have concerns about a young carer or that a young person may be an unidentified young carer to report concerns to Headteacher through safeguarding cause for concern reporting system.

- Any child/young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at the school will be referred to the appropriate services.
- School has a procedure for identifying young carers on enrolment into the school
- When a young carer leaves the school, either to enter high school or for any other reasons, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school subject to consent from the family.
- School will be flexible with late attendance due to a young carer's caring role (where this is a regular occurrence provision will be put into place, complying with all current policy.)
- School will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent and appropriate support is sourced.
- The schools PSHE curriculum will help to reduce stigma, prevent bullying and will cover young carers issues resulting in a fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.
- The school will at all times be flexible with regards to young carers and their issues upholding confidentiality.
- School acknowledges that young carers will not be obliged to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- School will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- School will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime, for young carers to call home.
- School will be flexible with deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)
- School will ensure that young carers have access to a homework club or allowed to undertake homework at lunch time or break time
- Arrangements will be made for school work to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis) N.B This needs to be agreed with young carer and must have a set time limit.
- School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility.
- School will provide alternative communication options for parents 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 safeguarding procedures at all times).
- 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.
- School will work in partnership with West Sussex young carers to ensure that a high quality standard of support for young carers is achieved at all times.
- School will commit to accessing and providing training for staff about young carers and their issues.

Next review date: April 2025