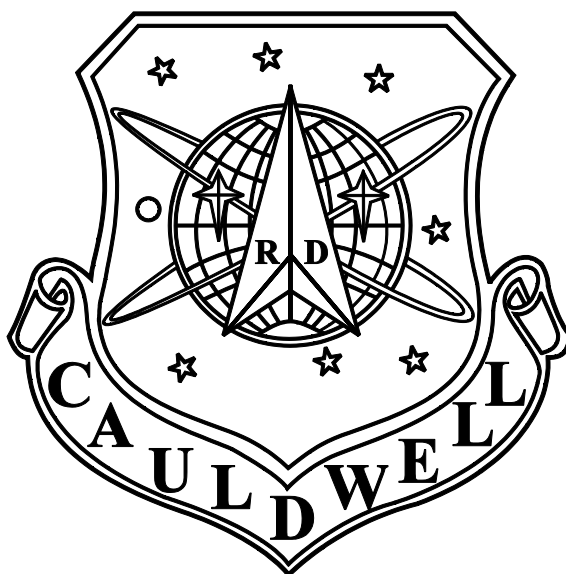


Cauldwell School



SH045	Version 1	Young Carers Policy	
Co-ordinator:	Kerrie Gobindram		
Link Governor:	Jane Knapp		
Approval:	School Improvement Sub Committee, as part of our Safeguarding Policy		
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Version	Description	Date	By
1.0	Reviewed by co-ordinator; no amendments.	13/01/2017	Kerrie Gobindram
1.0	Taken to SI Committee and approved by governors.	01/02/2017	Governors

Young Carers Policy

Commitment:

Cauldwell School is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers at Cauldwell School are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

(See Appendix 1 for additional information and contacts)

We believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home. When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, he or she may need a little extra support to help him or her get the most out of school. Our Young Carers Policy sets out how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Aims

Cauldwell School will:

- Provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers
- Appreciate that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- Promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.

Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Cauldwell has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help.
- Runs an annual PSHE lesson/assembly on the challenges faced by young carers.
- Can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings.
- Respects young carers' right to privacy and will only share information about them and their family with people who need to know to help them.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role
- When requested allows young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Complies with the Disability Discrimination Act by offering disabled parents support to get their children into school.

January 2017

Appendix 1

Legislation and Guidance

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles 28 and 29. Children and young people have the right to the best available education and to opportunities to develop their personality, mental and physical ability to their fullest potential.

The Children Act 1989.

The Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families, which gives guidance on S. 17 of the Act, has a section on young carers which states that effective support will require “good quality joint work between adult and children’s social services as well as co-operation from schools and health workers . . . Young carers can receive help from both local and health authorities.” See paragraphs 3.61-3.63.

DFES Advice and guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance: groups

of pupils at particular risk (replaced Circular 10/99 Social Inclusion: Pupil Support):

- “Young carers should not be expected to carry inappropriate levels of caring which have an adverse impact on their development and life chances. However, there are children and young people who undertake caring roles.

Young carers of a sick or disabled relative at home may be late or absent from school because of their responsibilities. A study in one authority suggested there may be up to 30 young carers in a secondary school.”

- “In a genuine crisis, a school can approve absence for a child to care for a relative until other arrangements can be made....”

- “Schools should consider designating a member of staff to have responsibility for young carers. They can also contribute to schemes that support them, working with local authorities and voluntary agencies.”

Also, **Effective Attendance Practice in Schools: An Overview** of attendance guidance states that schools should have “support systems in place for vulnerable groups which provide” among other things, signposting and access to external support for parents and pupils” and “training for staff on specific needs of pupils e.g. young carers”.

The National Carers Strategy (1999)

Chapter 8 of this Government strategy states that “schools need to be sensitive to the individual problems faced by young carers” and that “The Government will draw schools’ attention to effective practice in meeting the needs of pupils who are young carers, for example, through link arrangements with young carers’ services. . . .

Schools might find it helpful to have one member of staff to act as a link between young carers, the education welfare service, social services and young carers’ services.” It suggests that there may be 30 young carers in every school.

Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995; Carers and Disabled Children Act 2001; Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004

Between them these Acts give young carers varying rights to an assessment of their needs, which must take into account their right to an education. See the SCIE practice guide to the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004: www.scie.org.uk, commissioned by the Department of Health.

The Children's Society Young Carer's Initiative is funded by DfES to develop Key Principles of Practice in supporting young carers and their families. Key Principle 4 states: *Young carers will have the same access to education and career choices as their peers:*

Standard: Schools and colleges take responsibility to identify young carers at an early stage and ensure that they have the same access to a full education and career choices as their peers.

Further Information

- DfES 2006 guidance on young carers in *Advice and guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance: groups of pupils at particular risk* (www.dfes.gov.uk/behaviourandattendance)
- Teachernet guidance at www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/y/youngcarers/ and at www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/library/youngcarersandschools/ which includes case studies from teachers themselves.
- The section for education professionals at www.youngcarers.net/professionals
- The Children's Society's *Principles of Practice* for all services coming into contact with young carers and their families: www.youngcarer.com
- Young Carers Research Group Reports: *Young carers in the UK 2004* and *Young carers in schools*.

www.carersuk.org/Policyandpractice/Research

Primary school teachers' toolkit

<http://professionals.carers.org/young-carers/articles/primary-school-teachers-toolkit,7034,PR.html>