

Burton Primary School



Young Carers Policy

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Signed by: Full Governing Board	
Approval committee: CPPC Governing Body	

**YOUNG
CARERS**

POLICY

PRINCIPLES OF THE YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Burton Primary School values the abilities and achievements of all students and is committed to providing for each student the best possible environment for learning. We believe that all pupils should be equally valued and strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination. We aim to create an environment whereby all students will flourish and feel safe. We are committed to inclusion and equal opportunities and actively seek to remove barriers to learning and participation that can otherwise hinder or exclude students.

Our young carers policy takes account of findings and recommendations given by Barnardo's report 'Still Hidden, Still Ignored; Who Cares for Young Carers?' published in 2017, which emphasises the role and accountability of school staff and procedures regarding provision for, and progress of, young carers. This guidance suggests that schools have a key part to play in the provision of holistic and effective support to young carers, and our Governing Body will ensure that we fulfil this responsibility.

This policy has been produced in collaboration with local experts, MYTIME Young Carers.

AIMS OF YOUNG CARER PROVISION

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students
- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities

We recognise that many students will have caring responsibilities at some point during their time at the school, and that these responsibilities can impact a student's performance in any area of the curriculum; a whole school commitment is therefore necessary.

The school acknowledges that high standards and expectations are crucial to enhance personal and academic progress for all students, including those with caring responsibilities. Therefore, additional provision for young carers is balanced with appropriate challenge to reach longer term outcomes, and opposes a sympathetic acceptance of low achievement. As a school, we aim to demonstrate that all students are capable of excellence in relation to individual circumstances. The importance of enhancing positive self-esteem is also recognised, which allows opportunities for increased engagement, social development and achievement.

We aim to meet the needs of young carers in a graduated and timely manner and recognise the importance of coordination with other agencies.

We also acknowledge the need to keep up to date with advice, publications and research regarding provision for young carers, and therefore this document is subject to review at regular intervals.

EQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION

Burton Primary School aims to make reasonable steps to ensure that young carers are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to other students, and to ensure equal educational and social opportunity for all.

We strive to maintain a climate of tolerance, understanding, respect and trust that allows all students and staff irrespective of background or personal circumstances to feel safe and be safe from any form of discrimination or emotional harm. This young carers policy is supported by other school policies including our Equal Opportunities policy which can be viewed separately on the school website.

DEFINITION OF A YOUNG CARER

A child is a young carer if he/she holds a significant caring responsibility for a relative who, due to illness, disability, addiction or mental ill health, is unable to care fully for themselves.

Our definition of a young carer extends to include any child who holds a significant caring responsibility for a sibling.

STRATEGIES

- To include space on school application forms for parents to declare:
 - a) Whether or not their child is a young carer
 - b) Whether or not their child is registered as a young carer
- To work with MYTIME Young Carers to ensure that all relevant school staff receive training around how to identify and support young carers
- To create a Young Carer Passport for all young carers to ensure that teaching staff are aware of their circumstances and needs
- To appoint a member of the Governing Body who will be responsible for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to young carers. **This Governor is Pauline Stevens**
- To appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision. **This Senior Leader is Sarah Edmunds**
- To appoint a member of staff to lead on young carer provision who will be responsible for maintaining a young carer support group, and corresponding with external agencies such as Dorset and BCP council to stay up-to-date on a young carer's circumstances and needs. **This member of staff is Jane Pope (Pastoral Support Worker)**
- To monitor the progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- To monitor the attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- To make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case by case basis regarding issues such as lateness to school, late homework and poor attendance

- To provide young carers suffering with poor mental health and wellbeing with an Oops card as and when appropriate
- To provide a quiet space where homework can be completed at school if the atmosphere at home is not conducive to study
- To work with MYTIME Young Carers to raise awareness of young carers and develop a culture of respect for young carers among the student community, and also to encourage young carers to come forwards and make themselves known by delivering student assemblies
- To work with MYTIME Young Carers to offer extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection for young carers
- To work with MYTIME Young Carers to build the career aspirations of young carers
- To ensure that young carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the school's provision for young carers by electing a young carer to the student council
- To correspond with MYTIME Young Carers to provide 1:1 tutoring opportunities for young carers if needed
- To correspond with MYTIME Young Carers to provide access to counselling for young carers if needed
- To maintain and regularly review our young carer's policy

GUIDANCE AND FURTHER READING

Barnardo's Still Hidden, Still Ignored; Who Cares for Young Carers?

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/Still%20Hidden%20Still%20Ignored%20Barnardo%27s%20young%20carers%20report.pdf>