

**Young Carers POLICY**

**June 2019**

At Shenfield High school 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 extra support to help him or her get the most out of school. This Young Carer’s Policy sets out how we intend to support our students who are, or who become young carer’s.

**Defining a Young Carer**

“Young Carers are children and young persons under 18 who provide, or intend to provide, care, assistance or support to another family member. They carry out, often on a regular basis, significant or substantial caring tasks and assume a level of responsibility which would usually be associated with an adult. The person receiving care is often a parent but can be a sibling, grandparent or other relative who is disabled, has some chronic illness, mental health problem or other condition connected with a need for care, support or supervision.”

Becker. S (2000)

**Our school**:

* Has a Young Carer’s Senior Leadership Team Lead (with strategic responsibility for carers) and a Young Carer’s School Operational Lead (with responsibility for managing the schools’ provision for young carers on a daily basis).
* These staff are clearly identifiable to young carers, their families and staff.
* Runs a PSHE lesson on the challenges faced by young carers during year 7, to promote and support the work done by Young Carers.
* Can put Young Carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also signpost families to other support services.
* Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents’ evenings.
* Respects Individual family’s right to privacy and will only share information about a family with people who need to know to help the student concerned. (This does not apply if child protection concerns arise, and this Policy should be read in conjunction with the school’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy June 2019).
* Will consider alternatives if a Young Carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. detention, sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role. Provide support and assistance with PREP if and when necessary.
* Allows Young Carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes if necessary.
* Can provide parents with advice about how to get their children into school where transport is a problem.

**Identifying a Young Carer**

* We will make every effort to identify Young Carers by; collecting this information on application forms; providing material on our website to sign-post current students and their parents to the correct members of staff; ensuring all staff aware of how to identify Young Carers.

Unless the school is advised about a pupil’s home circumstances, Young Carers risk being identified by the negative aspects of their behaviour or work. Some Young Carers worry about bullying or interference in their family life and may seek to conceal their role from their peers and staff. We would like to assure students and their parents that the school will endeavour to support Young Carer’s wherever possible, recognise the difficulties the Young Carer may experience and provide support if required or requested.

This Policy is written as an addition to the school’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and was ratified by the governors in June 2019.

It will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Deputy Headteacher: Student Support and Welfare and the operational lead for young carers.