



Littletown Primary Academy

Honiton Bottom Road, Honiton, Devon, EX14 2EG

01404 548749

admin@littletown.devon.sch.uk

www.littletown.devon.sch.uk

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

**This Policy was adopted by the Full Governing Body of
Littletown Primary Academy**

On 10th December 2024

**signed.....
(Chair of Governors)**

Policy to be reviewed December 2025

Introduction

This Young Carers Policy has been jointly produced by Devon Young Carers and Littletown Primary Academy.

Commitment

At Littletown Primary Academy, we believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education including those who have, or are affected by, having a caring role at home. We also believe that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities, and should be supported to provide care at an age appropriate level.

We understand that when a young person's life is affected by a family or loved one having a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, they may need a little extra support to help them get the most out of school.

We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers and our policy will state how we will support any pupil who has a caring role at home. We also aim to support young carers through a whole-school approach and through working with other agencies and professionals, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the young carer.

We will keep up to date with national and local developments, legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families.

We are committed to meeting the needs of young carers so that they are enabled and encouraged to attend, enjoy school while having equal access to their education as their peers.

We view young carers as any other pupil, but understand that they may require extra support due to the caring responsibilities.

Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with and providing regular significant personal, physical or emotional care support to another family member, assuming a level of responsibility which would usually be associated only with an adult.

A child or young person can be caring for any of the following reasons:

- Parent or sibling mental health problems
- Parent or sibling with a learning or physical disability
- Parent or sibling with an entrenched alcohol or substance misuse problem
- Parent or sibling with a chronic or terminal illness

Young Carers and the effect on their education

Being a young carer can have a serious adverse effect on a child/young person's education. They may struggle to balance their care responsibilities at home with expectations at school. A young carer is likely to regularly experience any one or more of the following:

- Being late or absent due to fulfilling care responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems in the classroom
- Emotional distress – anxiety, anger, fear, worry self-doubt
- Mental and /or physical fatigue or tiredness
- Lack of time to complete coursework/homework on time or at all

- Academic underachievement relative to peers
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting or other physical care duties
- False signs of maturity linked to assuming adult roles and responsibilities
- Attitudinal/Behavioural problems e.g. isolation; challenging; disruptive; disengaged
- Lack of time for extracurricular activities at school or at home
- Aloof/Isolated – embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills and missing on ‘normal’ childhood experiences
- Bullying – victim or perpetrator
- Feeling that no one understands or cares about them and that no support is available
- Low self-esteem and a feeling of being incompetent (often unjustified)

Support Offered

- The school will have a designated staff member as the Young carer lead who will have special responsibility for young carers and their families. Pupils and families will be made aware of the identity of the schools lead. Current representative is Kate Prince.
- Training on young carers’ issues will be included in ongoing professional development for all staff.
- During the school enrolment process for new pupils, the school will identify whether:
 - Parent(s) or family members have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health problems.
 - The pupil helps to look after them and if this had an impact on their education.
- The school will use and evaluate data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by young carers.
- Information about relevant support and how to access it will be made clearly available to both pupils and families
- The school recognises the importance of providing coordinated support for young carers and their families, working in partnership with appropriate general practitioners, young carers’ services, behaviour and education support teams
- Young carers will receive fortnightly intervention with the school family support worker
- Young carers will be referred or signposted to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate, including the local young carers service Devon Young Carers.
- The school is accessible to parents with disabilities and/or illness, offering additional support to enable them to attend parents’ evening or other school events if required.
- The school will offer support to the young person and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school/college lead for young carers and families.
- The school will use the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of, and respect for issues such as caring, disability and impairment, for example, embedding the challenges faces by young carers into PSHE lessons.
- The school will allow young carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes so as to reduce any worry they may have about a cared for family member.
- All other appropriate policies, such as a bullying policies, will take young carers into account.
- Schools will be flexible with occasional late attendance due to you carers caring role; where this is a regular occurrence of lateness provision will be put into place to find a solution complying with all current policy.
- Littletown will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent to staff and that appropriate support is sourced.
- Littletown will ensure that young carers have access to a homework support.
- Littletown will work in partnership with Devon Young Carers to ensure that a high quality standard of support for young cares is achieved at all times.