

Young Carer's Protocol

Statement

At The Warriner we thrive on working in partnership with all of our families and allowing all young people equal access to education, regardless of their home circumstances.

As a school we are aware that some young people take on a caring role at home and are young carers. We recognise that these young people may need some extra support in school.

This Young Carer's protocol states how we will support any young carer.

Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is defined as someone who is under 18 years of age and helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem. Caring can involve physical or emotional care, or taking responsibility for someone's safety or wellbeing. The level of responsibility assumed by a young carer is often inappropriate to their age and at a level beyond simply helping out with jobs at home, which is a normal part of growing up.

Identification

- During the transition process from Primary School we will aim to identify where young people have a caring role within the family. Assemblies will be arranged to enable students to self-identify; highlighting the issues young carers face and the impact it can have on their education.
- Training will be offered to help staff members recognise the signs of a student potentially being a young carer in the school and be able to notify the Young Carer's Lead.
- The admission form for students who are applying for an In-Year transfer to The Warriner includes information which will identify whether student could potentially be a Young Carer.

School Support

At school we offer:

- Referrals to outside agencies i.e. Young Carers Oxfordshire
- Information to young carers about what is going on at the local Children & Family Centre.
- Training of staff to help them understand the issues young carers face and the negative impact it can have on their education
- Regular evaluation of young carer's data, including attendance and monitoring of progress to enable the young carers to reach their full potential (to include study support where appropriate)
- To arrange accessibility for parents with mobility and communication difficulties on parent's evening
- Consider alternative arrangements for out of school activities (where funding allows)

Confidentiality of students and their families will be respected at all times and information will only be shared with other agencies on a 'need to know' basis in order to provide appropriate support. The Young Carer will be kept informed throughout the process.

Legislation

- Under the **Children Act (1989)** Children (aged under 18) who are carers are entitled to be offered an assessment as "a child in need". In the event of any young carers considered to be at risk of significant harm the schools child protection procedures will be followed.
- **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 school will keep up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families.
- The whole school is committed to meeting the needs of young carers so that they are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers.

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Approved by: Dr A Kay