



# **YOUNG CARERS POLICY FOR SCHOOLS**

**Written By:** Elaine Adams  
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**Adopted by Governors:** 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
**Next Review:** February 2017

At Highfields Primary School we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education regardless of their home circumstances. This policy aims to ensure young carers at our school are identified and offered appropriate support to access education to ensure they achieve their potential and do not place their education at risk due to their caring responsibilities.

### **Definition**

Young Carers are children and young people under the age of 18 whose lives are restricted by the need to take responsibility for a person who is either: chronically ill, experiencing mental illness, has an alcohol and substance abuse related illness, has a physical disability, is elderly or infirm or is experiencing HIV/AIDS

We acknowledge that helping out around the house is a part of growing up, but we are aware that young carers regularly carry out caring tasks and take on responsibility inappropriate to their age.

### **Possible Effects on Education**

Due to caring responsibilities we recognise that a young care may experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, due to taking on adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
- Lack of time for extra curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

### **Support Offered**

The designated member of staff for Young Carers at Highfields Primary School, is Elaine Adams. Elaine Adams will liaise with relevant colleagues, Sandwell Young Carers and other agencies with the consent of the young carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated person.

### **Highfields Primary School will:**

- Include an identifying question within the enrolment stage to identify young carers
- Run a session on the challenges faced by young carers in PSHE lessons.

- Be sensitive towards young carers needs, they do not always want their peers to know they are a young carer.
- Provide young carers the opportunity to talk to the designated young carers worker in private.
- Give information to the young person about young carers and what advice and support is available.
- Take part in annual awareness/training sessions.

**We will provide:**

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime to phone home
- Negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)
- Access to homework clubs (where these are available)
- Lunchtime detentions rather than after school detentions (where possible)
- Arrangements for school work to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis).
- Access for parents with impaired mobility
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound.
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school.