



## Policy for Young Carers

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| <b>Adopted:</b>                | November 2016                     |
| <b>Review Date:</b>            | Autumn Term 2018                  |
| <b>Responsible for Review:</b> | Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion |
| <b>Committee for Review:</b>   | Care and Achievement              |
| <b>Frequency of Review:</b>    | 2 Years                           |
| <b>Statutory:</b>              | No                                |

## **Purpose**

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 an extra support to help to ensure they achieve their potential. This Young Carers' Policy says how we will help any student who helps to look after someone at home.

## **Introduction**

A young carer is a student under 18 years of age who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem. At Bungay High School, we recognise that caring can involve physical or emotional care, or taking responsibility for someone's safety or well-being. 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; as such it may impact on the education of the young person.

## **Identifying a young carer**

Unless the school is advised about a pupil's home circumstances, young carers risk first being identified by negative aspects of their behaviour or work. Some young carers worry about appearing different to their peers, bullying or interference in their family life and may seek to conceal their role from their peers and from teachers.

Most young carers will meet the definition of a 'child in need' under the Children Act 1989 and may be entitled to an assessment from Children's Services. In the event of any young carers being considered to be at risk of significant harm the school's child protection procedures should be followed.

Some of the warning signs that a student is in a caring role are:

- Regular lateness or unauthorised absence, possibly increasing periodically
- Tiredness in school
- Erratic responses to homework with incomplete, late or work not being presented.
- Lack of concentration, anxiety or worry
- Under-achievement for potential capability
- Behavioural problems, especially inappropriate responses possibly resulting from anger or frustration



- Fewer peer friendships than expected but good relationship with adults and appearing mature for their age
- Victim of bullying, perhaps linked to a family member's disability or state of health, e.g. substance misuse problem or due to young carer not being perceived by peers as dressing in the latest fashion
- Lack of interest in extracurricular activities, especially after school
- Apparent parental disinterest, e.g. non-attendance at parent's meetings, delays in responding to phone calls/letters, etc.

**Bungay High School:**

- Respects the young person's right to privacy. Wherever possible, staff will talk to young carers in private and not in front of their friends unless the carer asks for a friend to be present.
- Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers, who is known to students and staff. This person can put young carers and their families in touch with the local Young Carers' Service (Assistant Head of House, Lindsey Williams).
- Has a Young Carers Group which allows students to access support and information.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. detention, concerts, etc., due to their caring role.
- Allows young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes as appropriate.
- Can give parents advice about transport, e.g. in order to attend extra-curricular activities, detentions, etc.
- If a parent is unable to travel to parent's sessions due to family circumstances, we will try to make alternative arrangements, e.g. arrange parking, telephone consultation, etc.
- Where possible negotiate deadlines for homework, coursework etc. in advance of these being set (we cannot change deadlines for some things, such as Controlled Assessments).
- Meet with the Young Carers group every 6 weeks for a group discussion with refreshments.