

Approved: _____4th February 2015_____

Committee: Pupils and Curriculum

Signed: _____M Knight_____

Review: Three years ____Feb 2018_____

On Website: Yes

Heron Hill Primary School

Young Carers Policy

How can Heron Hill School help Young Carers?

We believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities.

Who are Young Carers?

Young Carers are children and young people under 18 years old who provide regular and ongoing care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances (ADASS, ADCS and the Children's Society 2012).

A Young Carer may undertake some or all of the following:

- Practical tasks, for example, cooking, housework, shopping.
 - Physical care, for example, lifting, helping up the stairs, physiotherapy.
 - Personal care, for example, dressing, washing, toileting needs.
 - Emotional support, for example, listening, calming, being present.
 - Household management, for example, paying bills, managing finances, collecting benefits.
 - Looking after siblings, for example, putting to bed, walking to school, parenting.
 - Interpretation, for example, for hearing/speech impairment or English as an additional language.
 - Administering medication, for example, insulin needles, preparing daily tablets.
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- Our 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.
 - Our school has a member of staff, Mrs Trish Cooling, with special responsibility for Young Carers and their families and lets all new pupils and their families know who she is, and that they can access support from her.
 - The school uses the Pupil Premium for Young Carers who meet eligibility criteria to minimise any barriers to education and learning experiences, to improve their wellbeing, attainment and attendance.

- The school has a strong partnership in place with the Young Carers Service Providers and can put Young Carers in touch with them and also put families in touch with other support services.
- The school actively seeks feedback and ideas from young carers and their families when appropriate, in order to shape and improve provision for Young Carers.

The School understands the issues faced by Young Carers, what to look for and how to respond. Heron Hill Primary School will:

- Provide training on Young Carer issues and embed this in ongoing professional development for governors and all staff.
- Keep up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting Young Carers and their families.
- Ensure that Young Carers know how to access support.
- Ensure that information about support available for Young Carers and how to access it is clearly available to both pupils and families.
- Use the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of and respect for, issues such as caring, disability and impairment. This will be done by embedding the challenges faced by Young Carers into PSHE lessons and the curriculum.
- Ensure that its premises are accessible and welcoming to parents with disabilities and/or illness and offer additional support to enable them to attend parents' evenings or other school events. Home visits will be considered where appropriate.
- Offer additional support to remove any communication barriers with parents, so that parents are able to be fully engaged with the education of their child.

During the school enrolment process for new pupils the school will:

- Identify parents or family members who have disabilities or other long term physical or mental health conditions.
- Identify if the pupil has caring responsibilities and if this Young Carer has any additional needs that should be supported.
- Establish individual plans to recognise the child's/young persons' specific needs as a Young Carer.
- Refer/signpost Young Carers and their families to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate.

Young Carers are respected:

- A Young Carer's privacy is respected and information about them or their caring role is not communicated in front of their peers.
- A family's privacy is protected and the school only shares information with professionals on a need to know basis in order to support pupils and their families.
- The school views Young Carers as any other pupil, but understands that they have the additional pressure of caring responsibilities.

Transition support:

The school offers support to the pupil and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school lead person for Young Carers and their families.

Reducing barriers to education and support:

- The school will ensure intervention is targeted and Young Carers are supported, are able to grow and enjoy life to the full.
- The school uses and evaluates data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by Young Carers and reviews Young Carers plans accordingly.
- The school will allow Young Carers to use the telephone to call home during breaks and lunch times so as to reduce worry they may have about a family member.
- Where appropriate, the school negotiates deadlines, for example for homework.
- The school will consider how best to support those parents who find it difficult to escort younger children to school.
- The school arranges for detention to take place at lunchtime, not after school.
- The school meets the requirement of the Equality Act 2010.

Name of Designated Person: Mrs Trish Cooling

Governor responsible: Mrs Morag Knight