



Young Carers' Policy

Policy written November 2021 – Review date November 2023

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At Bradford Christian School, we believe that all children have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home. When a child looks after someone in their family with a history of long term physical or mental health illness, a disability or alcohol or substance abuse, the young person may need some extra support to help them get the most out of school.

1.2 This Young Carers' policy will set out how we will help any pupil who looks after someone at home.

2.0 Defining a Young Carer.

2.1 A Young Carer is a pupil 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. 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.

3.0 Identifying a Young Carer

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

3.2 Some of the warning signs that might indicate that a pupil has unrecognised responsibilities are:

- Regular lateness or unauthorised absence
- Tiredness in school
- Erratic response to homework with incomplete, late or non-compliance to set tasks
- Lack of concentration, anxiety or worry
- Under-achievement
- Behavioural problems, especially inappropriate responses possibly resulting from anger or frustration
- Few or no peer friendships but possibly with a good relationship with adults and presenting as very 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
- Apparent parental disinterest due to non-attendance at parent's meetings.

3.3 The above may be indicators of a range of problems, some not associated with a child having a caring role at home. However, in dealing with any child exhibiting any of the above signs, staff should consider asking the child if they are helping to look after someone at home.

3.4 It may also be apparent from conversations with a child or observations within school that a child is undertaking caring responsibilities.

3.5 It is also accepted that some students may take on a caring role for other siblings who whilst not holding to the definition above in 2.1, do so because of their caring sensitive nature, and this too may require some support from the school but not necessarily an outside organisation.

3.6 Staff should also discuss their related concerns with colleagues with pastoral responsibilities for the child.

4.0 Support for identified Young Carers'

4.1 Once a child has been identified as a young carer, this information should be passed to the DSL. The child will be included on the young carers register.

4.2 The DSL will discuss with the headteacher the level of support required for the pupil and whether that support should be internally through SST or externally sourced through Bradford Young carers. Where that support is

internal we would not necessarily involve parents unless it is felt necessary to do so. Where external support is required, the school would discuss this with parents.

4.3 Where support is internal through SST, students will be allocated to a member of staff who will mentor them and have regular catch up meetings with them. The member of staff will talk to young carers in private and not in front of their friends unless the young carer asks for a friend to be present.

4.4 Staff will be sensitive to the needs of the young carer including being careful not to ask even well intentioned questions about how the family members are when the young carer is in the presence of their peers.

4.5 While we will respect the right to privacy, we would wish to establish if the family is in contact with a support service that could help reduce their reliance on the child where it is appropriate to do so. Schools will liaise with support services to ensure that families can be advised where additional help may be available to them.

4.6 We will only share information about young carers and their families with people who need to know in order to be able to help. Before sharing information with anyone else, we will seek consent from the young carer or, if they are not able to understand, from a parent.

4.7 To help identified young carers, school will:

- Run an awareness session with students in the form of an assembly
- Complete a staff training session re young carers
- Where needed negotiate deadlines for homework in advance of these being set.
- When absence notes are not produced because of the known home circumstances of the young carer, arrangements will be agreed for appropriately coding and recording absences.
- If a parent is unable to travel to parents' meetings due to family circumstances, school staff will try to make alternative arrangements i.e. complete the meeting via google meet. The young carer or parent may request this.
- Provide advice about how a young carer can get into school where transport is a problem.
- Have staff available for any child, parent or family member who wishes to discuss their family circumstances so that we can help the child in achieving their potential.
- Take an active role in seeking to identify and provide support to hidden young carers.

5.0 **Safeguarding**

5.1 Most young carers will meet the definition of a 'child in need' under the Children Act 2004 and may be entitled to an assessment from Children's Services.

5.2 In the event of any young carers being considered to be at risk of significant harm, the school's Safeguarding procedures should be followed.

5.3 Young carers' have protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 because they are associated with a family member who has a disability or illness and cannot be discriminated against because of this.

5.4 The Children and Families Act 2014 has a section on Young Carers' and, in conjunction with the adults focused Care Act, seeks to make sure that Young Carers get the support they need.


5.5 Local authorities are expected to try and identify Young Carers so they can be offered support.

6.0 **Review**

6.1 This policy should be read in conjunction with;

- Safeguarding policy
- Equality policy

6.2 This policy was written in November 2021 and will be reviewed every two years by SLT. The next review will be completed in November 2023.

Formally agreed through SLT compliance:	18th November 2021
Signed Jane Prothero – Head Teacher	
Review Date:	November 2023