



Young Carers Policy

At Elmstead Wood Primary School we believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their situation at home. When a young person has a caring responsibility they may need extra support to help them get the most out of school. We define a Young Carer as a young person who has caring responsibilities for a family member with a disability, health condition or substance misuse issue. Young Carers may provide physical care, personal care, help with medication or practical tasks, or provide emotional support. This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home.

Our School:

- Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers, and informs all new students who the member of staff is and what they can do to help. They are known as the Young carers lead (or other appropriate title).
- Will provide training and information to staff members on how to identify young carers and signpost them to the relevant support.
- Will proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face as well as the support that is available (for example during form/tutor time, assemblies, PSHE sessions)
- Will provide a safe and confidential space for peer support groups, overseen by a member of staff, allowing young carers in the school to provide emotional support to each other regarding their caring role.

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- Makes referrals to Bromley Well where appropriate and with the family and young person's permission.
- Welcomes visits from the Young Carers Project to work with pupils referred for support so they can meet in a safe setting for 1:1 support sessions.
- Will provide information on our support for young carers on our website for current and prospective pupils and parents.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend extra curricular activities due to their caring role.
- Will seek to provide alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend school because of their caring commitment.
- Has information about young carers available at prospective open days, and proactively asks about caring responsibilities during the admissions process.
- Is physically accessible and has accessible information available to parents who have mobility or communication difficulties.
- Will not make assumptions about family members with disabilities, mental and physical health conditions or substance misuse issues, or label young people and their families.
- Respects the young person's right to privacy and only shares information on them and their family with people who need to know. Their home situation and caring role will not be discussed in front of their peers.
- Treats young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality. The young person's caring role is acknowledged and respected.

Date: November 2024

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