



BRANNEL SCHOOL

**YOUNG
CARERS
POLICY**

Written by: Caroline Hunt, Student Welfare Officer

Approved by Governors: June 2016

Next review:

Our young carers policy says how we will support any student who helps look after someone at home to enable them to reach their potential

How can Brannel 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, and parenting.
- ❖ Interpretation, for example, for hearing/speech impairment or English as an additional language.
- ❖ Administering medication, for example, insulin needles, preparing daily tablets.

School Commitment

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 Caroline Hunt, 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 an effective referral system and strong partnership in place with the local young carers service.

The school actively seeks feedback and ideas from young carers and their families in order to improve provision for young carers.

The school understands the issues faced by young carers, what to look for and how to respond. Brannel School will:

- ❖ Provide all staff and Governors information on young carers and make them aware of issues that young carers may face. This will continue to be an ongoing development as and when required.
- ❖ 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 students and families.
- ❖ Use the School's curriculum to ensure that its students are understanding, accepting and respectful for such issues as caring by using PSHE lessons, assemblies and information boards as a means to communicate the challenges faced by young carers.
- ❖ Ensure that its premises are accessible and welcoming to parents with disabilities and/or illness, offering additional support to enable them to attend parents' evenings or other school events. Home visits are considered where 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 respected and the school only shares information with professionals and agencies 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.

Reducing barriers to education and learning

- ❖ The school will ensure intervention is targeted and Young Carers are supported, are able to grow and enjoy life to the full.
- ❖ The school offers lunch time detentions as well as after school ones.
- ❖ The school allows young carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunch times so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member.
- ❖ Where appropriate, the school negotiates deadlines, for example, for homework and coursework.
- ❖ The school actively seeks feedback and ideas from young carers and their families in order to improve provision for young carers.
- ❖ The school uses and evaluates data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by young carers and reviews young carers accordingly.

Name of Senior Leadership Team Lead: Marc Cooper, Assistant head teacher

Name of Operational Lead: Caroline Hunt, Student Welfare Officer