

Kingsfield Primary School

A member of the Active Learning Trust



Statement / Policy Summary

This policy looks at the school's approach to supporting Young Carers across the school.

Date ratified:	Spring 2021
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Date of review:	Spring 2024
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Equalities Impact Statement

Has this policy fully considered the school's equality objectives and statement?	Yes
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Is there any impact upon the school's equality objectives?	Yes
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If 'yes', are these clearly described and their impact assessed?	Supports Target 2 – developing a welcoming and supportive ethos.
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1. Statement of intent

Kingsfield Primary School is committed to supporting Young Carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure Young Carers at Kingsfield Primary School are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

2. Definition for a Young Carer

Young Carers are children and young people under the age of 18 who provide care, assistance or support to another family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill, or has a substance misuse problem. They carry out, often on a regular basis, significant or substantial caring tasks, taking on a level of responsibility that is inappropriate to their age or development.

3. What support might a Young Carer provide?

In general, support given by Young Carers can be divided into physical, practical support and emotional support.

Practical Support

- Cooking and making family meals
- Food shopping
- Laundry
- Cleaning and housework
- Helping to look after a sibling
- Attending appointments
- Helping with financial issues and managing money

Physical Support

- Helping carry and lift heavy things
- Helping with mobility and moving around
- Managing and administering medication
- Supporting with getting washed and dressed

Emotional Support

- Talking things through
- Listening
- Reassuring the person cared for and reassuring siblings
- Worrying
- Keeping family members safe
- Helping cared for person to feel calm
- Keeping the cared for person company and making sure they are ok

It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list and this will be different for every Young Carer.

4. Effects on education

Kingsfield Primary School acknowledges that there are Young Carers amongst its pupils, and that being a Young Carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a Young Carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time to complete homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems, such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, due to assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self-esteem

It also might be difficult to engage their parents / carers (due to fears about child being taken into care, fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called into question). They may be unable to attend parents' evenings.

5. Support available

Kingsfield Primary School acknowledges that Young Carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, we want to communicate that Young Carers' education is important; we want all children to achieve well at our school.

A Young Carers Champion has been appointed (Miss. Reid) and they will be the main contact for the Young Carers in the school. The Young Carers Champion will meet with the Young Carers on a regular basis and will liaise with the teacher responsible for vulnerable groups. The Young Carers Champion will liaise with relevant colleagues and agencies with the consent of the young carer and parents / carers and in conjunction with the Family Care Manager.

Kingsfield Primary School will:

- Provide Young Carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private who will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Appreciate that Young Carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Treat Young Carers in a sensitive and child-centred way.
- Ensure Young Carers can access all available support services in school.
- Follow child protection procedures regarding any Young Carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

- Promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.
- Provide staff access to information and training to enable them to recognise indicators that a child has a caring responsibility.
- In addition, Kingsfield Primary School will recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers.

Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Negotiate deadlines for homework when needed.
- Access to homework clubs.
- Access to additional support groups.
- Arrangements for schoolwork to be sent home when there is a genuine crisis. Any approved absence for a young carer will be time limited (DfES 2006).
- Alternative communication and access options for parents / carers who have additional needs and / or disabilities.
- Advise the parents if there are difficulties in transporting a Young Carer to school.

6. Succession Planning

If the Young Carers Champion leaves a post, a new lead will be appointed within one term.