Montgomery Academy
An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust
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Inspiring Excellence Together

Supporting Young Carers at Montgomery

Dear parents and guardians,

At Montgomery, we are committed to supporting the wellbeing, learning and development of all our pupils. We recognise that children and young people can sometimes have additional responsibilities at home, particularly when someone in their family needs extra support.

Through our involvement in the **Caring Classroom Partnership**, in partnership with Blackpool Carers Centre, we are working to make sure that young carers are recognised, understood and supported throughout their education.

What is a young carer?

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 who provides, or intends to provide, care or support to another person who may have:

- A long-term physical health condition or illness.
- A disability or additional needs.
- Mental health difficulties.
- Problems with alcohol or substance misuse.
- Other support needs that affect their everyday life.

This support might be provided to a parent, brother, sister, grandparent or another family member. It can involve practical tasks, such as cooking, cleaning or helping with everyday activities, but it can also include providing emotional support, reassurance or helping someone to feel safe.

You don't have to know what a young carer is to be one.

Some children may not see themselves as young carers, and parents may not realise that the support their child provides at home could be considered a caring role.

How are we supporting young carers?

Through the Caring Classroom Partnership, we are working alongside Blackpool Carers Centre to develop a school environment where young carers feel recognised, listened to and supported.

We want to make sure that:

- Young carers are identified as early as possible.
- Staff understand the challenges that caring responsibilities can bring.
- Children have someone in school they can talk to.
- Appropriate support is available to help them with their learning, friendships and wellbeing.
- Young carers are able to enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential.

We are already aware of some young carers within our school, but we recognise there may be others who have not yet been identified.

How can you let us know?

We are encouraging parents and guardians to tell us if their child regularly helps to look after or support someone at home. We also welcome pupils who would like to speak to someone in school about their circumstances.

You do not need to provide lots of personal information. Simply letting us know will give us an opportunity to understand your child's circumstances and explore whether any support might be helpful.

The best we can be

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You can do this by completing the reply slip below or contacting our Young Carers Lead:

Miss Holden
l.holden@montgomery.fcat.org.uk

Support from Blackpool Carers Centre

Young carers and their families can also access support from local charity **Blackpool Carers Centre**.

The charity provides a dedicated support team, information and advice, and opportunities for young carers to access activities, meet others with similar experiences and have time for themselves.

Families can register through the Blackpool Carers Centre online referral form, or ask our Young Carers Lead to help make a referral.

We want every young carer to know that they are not alone, that their contribution is recognised and that support is available.

Together, through the Caring Classroom Partnership, we want every young carer to feel seen, heard and supported.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Holden
Young Carers Lead

Young Carers – Parent/Guardian Reply Slip

We would like to let the school know that our child regularly helps to look after or support someone in our family.

Pupil's name: _____

Class / Year group: _____

Does your child regularly help or provide support to someone at home?

Yes / No / Unsure

If you wish, you can tell us a little more about the support your child provides. ***This is optional.***

_____

_____

_____

Would you like the school to contact you to discuss what support may be helpful for your child?

Yes / No

Would you like the school to help you make a referral to Blackpool Carers Centre for further support?

Yes / No

Parent/guardian name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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