

CROWMARSH GIFFORD C. E. SCHOOL



Young Carers Policy

“Let Your Light Shine...” Matthew 5:16
Faith ♦ Service ♦ Integrity ♦ Responsibility ♦ Truth ♦ Excellence

Linked to Article 2 and Article 3 from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 2 (Non-discrimination): That the Convention applies to all children, whatever their race, religion or abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from. It doesn't matter where children live what language they speak, what their parents do, whether they are boys or girls, what their culture is, whether they have a disability or whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis. Article 3: The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them. All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Crowmarsh Gifford Church of England Primary is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers at Crowmarsh Gifford School are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person whose life is impacted by the responsibility of care for an adult or sibling in their family with, which could include but not exclusively:

- A long-term illness
- Disability
- Substance misuse
- Inadequate parenting skills
- Parent work patterns

Caring Tasks

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. They may be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. A young carer may do some or all of the following:

- Nursing care - giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility or physiotherapy etc.
- Personal care - washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements
- Emotional care - being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.
- Domestic care - doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc
- Financial care - running the household, bill paying, benefit collection, prescription collection etc
- Child care - taking responsibility for younger siblings.
- Interpreting: helping with communication, due to a hearing or speech impairment, second language, reading letters.

Possible Effect on Education

Crowmarsh Gifford acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's

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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 / Low self-esteem
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, because of 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

It also might be difficult to engage their parents (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.

Support Offered

Crowmarsh Gifford CE Primary School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, we are giving the message that young carers' education is important.

The designated Young Carers Lead is Mrs Charlotte Beckett, who will liaise with relevant colleagues, Spurgeons, young carers and other relevant agencies with the consent of the young carer. All pupils and parents will be made aware of the designated link.

Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School will:

- provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers. We 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, upholding confidentiality.
- 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 opportunities in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.

Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to phone home
- Negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)
- Access to homework clubs (where these are available)

- 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)
- Access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound.
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school.
- Referrals to other agencies for additional support e.g. Spurgeons
- Opportunities for young carers to meet and talk with others