

TASKER MILWARD VC SCHOOL

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

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1. Who are young carers?

A young carer is defined by the National Assembly of Wales as someone under the age of 18 *'who takes responsibility for someone who is ill, disabled, elderly, experiencing mental distress or affected by substance abuse, or has substantial responsibility for caring for a sibling.'* A young carer could be from any family. They may be the person providing all of the care but may also help some one else to provide the care.

Context

Young carers are identified as one of the five key priority areas for the implementation of the Carers' Strategy in Wales (National Assembly for Wales, 2000). Young carers are also highlighted in the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services in Wales as children and young people in special circumstances.

Young carers may be caring in different ways:

- Providing personal care which involves bathing, feeding and dressing.
- Giving medicine or injections.
- Providing emotional support such as listening, or providing a 'shoulder to cry on'.

- Having substantial family responsibilities, like cleaning, shopping, washing, budgeting, ironing and cooking.
- Young carers often feel tired, isolated and worried. Their social life is often restricted, with few opportunities for fun and after school activities.

2. Factors that may indicate that a young person is a young carer include:

- The presence of illness or disability in the family
- Difficulties in school attendance
- The young person assumes a parental role for siblings
- The young person is sometimes unwell, depressed or stressed
- Poor concentration/tiredness
- Academic performance below potential
- Inability to complete homework
- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- The young person is not making use of out of hours activities
- 'False maturity' e.g. appearing to be very mature and responsible but 'letting go' and behaving immaturely in a safe environment
- Behavioural problems
- Parents do not attend parents evenings etc.
- Anxiety about applying for opportunities in further education that may take the young person away from the area.

3. What to do if you know that someone is a young carer.

If you know that someone in Tasker Milward School is a young carer, you should:

- Be sensitive towards a young carer's needs. They do not always want their peers to know about their caring role.
- Pass the information on to relevant colleagues i.e. Head of Year/form tutor with the consent of the young carer.

4. What Tasker Milward School will do:

- Have a designated member of staff with special responsibility for young carers.

- Promote positive images of disability, illness, mental ill health and caring throughout the school curriculum and environment. There will be a young carers lesson delivered in PSE in Year 7.
- Liaise with appropriate agencies on behalf of a young carer if they wish e.g. Statutory (the Carers' Assessment Team, Social Services, CAMHS), Pembrokeshire Young Carers' project, Young Carers in MIND (supporting young carers who have parent(s) with mental health difficulties), Siblings Group etc.
- Provide information about the above to the young carers.
- Display up-to-date information about support and resources in the local community, and give information to the individual young person about young carers and what advice and support is available.
- Raise awareness about young carers through staff training, including appropriate support staff.
- Make sure that all pupils are aware of who the designated staff members for young carers are.
- Try to provide opportunities for young carers to catch up on any class work or homework that they might miss.
- Look at alternatives for those pupils unable to take part in extra-curricular activities e.g. after school sports, concerts, detention etc. in consultation with the young carers and parents.
- Monitor young carers' attendance and requirements for additional support at school, and take action in co-operation with the young carer to ensure that their needs are met.

