



Young Carer Policy for Schools

Stuart Road Primary Academy is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers in our school are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

Definition

A young carer is a child under the age of 18, who provides unpaid help and support on a regular basis to a family member, friend or relative. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one person. They may provide practical help, care, physical or emotional support to a person who is vulnerable for a wide variety of reasons, whether through age, physical or mental illness, disability or other issues such as substance misuse.

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member.

At Stuart Road, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home. When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, he or she may need a little extra support to help him or her get the most out of school. Our Young Carers Policy says how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Our school:

- Has a named member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help. **This is Michelle Riley.**
- Will celebrate and recognise what an important role your child is doing in offering support to others in need.
- Promote the idea of respite and offer a fortnightly play session including a variety of different activities and a safe space to talk to your child.
- Can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also put families in touch with other support services. We work closely with professionals within Plymouth City Council who can be contacted by anyone wishing to find out more information or seek additional support on Time4u@plymouth.gov.uk or call 07899 950 155. We will also seek opportunities to meet other young carers in the city.
- Respects your right to privacy and will only share information about you and your family with people who need to know to help you.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role.
- Allows young carers to make contact with those they care for through the day if required.

- Complies with the Disability Discrimination Act by offering disabled parents support to get their children into school.

Further information and support can be obtained from contacting the school inclusion manager:

Michelle Riley via the school office or by email michelle.riley@stuartroadacademy.org