

Penglais School Young Carer Protocol

1). INTRODUCTION

- At Penglais School we are aware that pupils in our school may well have caring roles at home. Young carers are children and young people under the age of 18 who provide care, support or assistance to a family member with care needs. The majority of Young Carers care for a parent, but the person with care needs may be a sibling, grandparent or any other family member. Young people aged 18—25 are identified as Young Adult Carers.

Penglais aims to understand the issues faced by Young Carers and to have procedures stating how we will support them. When a young person does look after someone in their family they may need a little extra support to help them get the most out of school. We aim to understand the issues faced by Young Carers and to have separate procedures for Young Carers stating how we will support them. The whole school is committed to meeting the needs of Young Carers so that they are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers. The school understands that Young Carers may have the additional burden of caring responsibilities. The school will aim to offer support to Young Carers to improve their attendance and well-being.

2). IDENTIFICATION

The School uses several methods to encourage Young Carers to come forward.

- During the school enrolment process for new pupils, the school will seek to identify whether:
 - parent(s) or family members have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health problems.
 - the pupil helps to look after them and if this has an impact on their education.
- The school will have dedicated area(s) displaying appropriate posters/leaflets.
- School staff will identify Young Carers through observations and day to day contact with pupils.
- The school will have regular awareness raising sessions, e.g. Assembly talks.
- Pupils who are identified as a Young Carer, with their consent, will have any additional needs met as appropriate.

3). REFFERALS/SIGNPOSTING

- Pupils who are Young Carers, with their consent, will be flagged in the school internal records.
- Young Carers will be referred or signposted to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate, including the local Young Carers' service.

4). SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

School staff and Young Carers will be supported and provided with information regarding Young Carers through a variety of methods including:

- A school lead/link person will be identified (Mrs K Shaw) and she will have special responsibility for Young Carers and their families. Pupils and families will be made aware of the schools lead.
- Training on Young Carers' issues will be embedded as part of ongoing professional development for all staff. E.g. Staff briefings, Young Carer Aware e-learning etc.
- Individual plans, where appropriate, will recognise the child's/young person's specific needs as a Young Carer.
- The school will use and evaluate data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by Young Carers
- Information about support available for Young Carers and how to access it will be made clearly available to both pupils and families.
- The school recognises that some Young Carers and their families need to receive coordinated support by the school, working in partnership, where appropriate, with GP's, Young Carers' services, behaviour and education support teams and outside agencies.
- The school is accessible and welcoming to parents with disabilities and/or illness, offering additional support to enable them to attend parents' evenings or other school events. Home visits will be considered where appropriate.
- The school will consider alternatives if a Young Carer is unable to attend out of school activities, such as sports coaching or concerts, due to their caring role.
- The school will also consider lunch time detentions rather than after school ones.
- The school will allow Young Carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member when needed.
- Where possible, the school will negotiate deadlines, for example, for homework and coursework, at all times.
- The school will offer support to the young person and their family during the transition process, with consent, sharing agreed information with their new school/college lead for Young Carers and their families.
- The school will engage with families and take a holistic approach to supporting whole family needs, sign posting families to support services via the Family Information Service and holding TAF meetings as and when appropriate.

5). REVIEW AND REFINE

- The school will actively seek feedback and ideas from Young Carers and their families in order to shape and improve provision for Young Carers.
- This protocol will be reviewed annually in **November** by the link teacher and will be discussed at any relevant meeting for amendments by the Head teacher, SLT or Carer link teacher.

Signed: _____

Date: _____