



Pondhu
Primary School

M-30 Young Carers Policy

Policy First Agreed	Feb 2015
Last Review	Feb 2019
Next Review due	Autumn 2021

Young Carers Policy

At Pondhu Primary School 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 our whole-school approach will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home. This policy reflects the schools work on the Rights Respecting Schools Award, linking it to key articles from the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child.

Article 13, (freedom of expression): Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law’.

Our school:

- Our Parent Support Advisor is the key member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new pupils know who she is and what she can do to help.
- Can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also put families in touch with other support services. ‘Article 15: (Freedom of Association). Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights’.
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents’ evenings.
- 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 flexible alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities or complete homework tasks within set time frames.

Pondhu Primary School aims to:

- Publicise information about available support and how to access it.
- Raise awareness of the issues faced by young carers to staff and pupils.
- Provide training on young carers for all relevant staff.
- Promote positive images of disability, illness, mental ill health and caring throughout the school environment.
- Provide opportunities for identification of young carers after PSHE lessons or assemblies.

- Provide non face-to-face communication opportunities, e.g post-box service
- Provide regular opportunities for Young Carers to meet as a group for Peer Support, to celebrate success and to build resilience.
- Liaise with other agencies and provide opportunities for our young carers to engage with external agencies for further support.
- Access external charity funding where individual needs are identified due to the young person's caring role within the home to further support the young person and their family.
- Create an environment where families are comfortable to inform the school that their child has caring responsibilities.
- Effective and supportive information sharing at transition points for the young carer.