



Young Carers

At Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form 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.

Definition

A Young Carer is a student under 16 years of age who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or who has a substance misuse problem. Caring can take the form of physical and/or emotional care or taking responsibility for someone's safety or wellbeing. The level of responsibility assumed by a Young Carer is often inappropriate to their age and at a level beyond simply helping out with jobs at home, and as such it may impact on the education and wellbeing of the young person. A Young Adult Carer is someone between the ages of 16-24 who is also covered by the same policy.

Identifying Young Carers

When a child joins Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form their parent/carer is required to complete an Admissions Booklet. In this booklet, parents/carers are asked if their child is a Young Carer, and to provide further details if they wish.

Students who are identified as Young Carers are identified on the MIS and details of the caring role students have may then be shared with key staff, for example, tutors and Raising Standard Leaders.

Support Offered

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form recognises that if a student is a Young Carer then they might be sensitive when approached about certain topics. We recognise that each Young Carer is an individual and therefore they may require access to an array of support.

Two members of staff are designated as having specific responsibility for Young Carers: Mrs M Townsend and Mrs Turner. Their photos are displayed on the Young Carers student noticeboard and in the staff room.

As a school we will:

- work towards the Young Carers Schools Award which involves meeting targets set by the Carers Trust, to promote and encourage achievement for all Young Carers;
- make parents/carers aware of the financial support that is available to Young Carers, e.g. help towards funding a place on a school trip;
- respect a student's right to privacy. Wherever possible, staff will talk to Young Carers in private about any issues;
- provide a visual board displaying leaflets, posters, information, events and newsletters;
- raise the profile of Young Carers through assemblies, staff CPD, Young Carers Day and in PDT lessons;
- liaise with subject teachers to make reasonable adjustments at times of need around deadlines for home learning;
- allow students to meet with staff from the Young Carers Service during the school day;
- signpost to other agencies if and where possible;
- ensure the school building is accessible to parents/carers who have mobility and communication difficulties to ensure they are able to be fully involved in school life, for example, parents'/carers' consultation evenings and school shows;
- will only share information about them and their family with people who need to know to help them;
- will consider alternatives if a Young Carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. detention due to their caring role;
- comply with the Disability Discrimination Act by offering disabled parents/carers support to get their children into school.