

Thongsley Fields Primary and Nursery School

Young Carers Policy

Definition of a young carer

'Young carers are children and young people under 18 years old who provide unpaid care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances.' Carers Trust, 2015

At Thongsley Fields Primary and Nursery we are aware that some of our pupils may be caring for family member at home and may require support to help them attend and enjoy school in the same way as other pupils to achieve their potential.

We have the following practices and strategies in place to support young carers in our school:

- There is a designated Young Carers School Lead with responsibility for young carers and their families
 - The Young Carer's School Lead is: Una Sancaster
- The school has adopted a whole school approach to supporting young carers and their families, and information will only be shared with with professionals and agencies on a 'need to know' basis in order to support young carers and their families
- Partnership working with local young carers service has been developed to embed ongoing training on young carers for our staff and Governors
- Information and signposting is available for pupils, staff and families to access regarding the identification of young carers and how to self-identify
- Identification of young carers during the enrolment process is in place to actively monitor attendance and attainment
- Support for young carers and their family during the transition process is available to share agreed information with their new school/ college about their caring role
- The school will look to consider alternative arrangements if a young carer cannot attend after school activities.
- The school will allow young carers to use a phone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes to reduce the worry that they may have about a family member
- The school actively seeks feedback from our young carers and their families to look at how we can improve the support we put in place for young carers
- Pupil premium funding will be used where possible to minimise any barriers to education and learning experienced by eligible young carers
- An effective referral system and strong partnership with relevant external agencies is in place and with the school nurse and local young carers service.

Agreed and adopted by the Governing Body on 8th March 2016.