

HOWELL'S SCHOOL: YOUNG CARERS POLICY

At Howell's School, we believe that all our children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (National Assembly for Wales, 2014) defines a carer as, 'a person who provides or intends to provide care for an adult or disabled child'. A young carer is defined as being under the age of 18 years old. The care provided might include physical, emotional and personal care, household jobs, looking after siblings, or advocating on behalf of the person being cared for. This caring role can have an adverse impact on young carers. Our Young Carers Policy explains how we will identify and support any student who is a carer.

Our school:

- Has a member of staff who leads on young carers. This is the Deputy Principal and DSL, Zoe Harvey. The following have responsibility in different sections of the school:
 - Early Years - Laura Davies
 - Prep – Head of Prep and Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Abby Matthews
 - Senior School – Zoe Harvey, Deputy Principal and DSL and Heads of Year
 - College – Acting Head of College, Sharon Richards
- Identifies carers through a number of methods, including admissions forms; contact with parents and assemblies to learners that encourage self-identification.
- Respects young carers' right to privacy and will only share information with people who need to know.
- Recognises that care can be temporary, short term or long term.
- Informs staff/wellbeing about young carers, where agreed with the carer, so that they can be supported and monitored appropriately.
- Uses assemblies and PSHE to raise awareness of the challenges faced by young carers.
- Makes connections with outside agencies.
- Can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- Complies with the Disability Discrimination Act by offering disabled parents support to get their children into school.
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings.
- 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 telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Evaluates provision for young carers to help meet their needs.
- Tracks and monitors the progress and outcomes of carers.

Useful Legislation and Guidance

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles 28 and 29

Children and young people have the right to the best available education and to opportunities to develop their personality, mental and physical ability to their fullest potential.

The Children Act 1989

The Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families has a section on young carers which states that effective support will require “good quality joint work between adult and children’s social services as well as co-operation from schools and health workers . . . Young carers can receive help from both local and health authorities.” See paragraphs 3.61-3.63.

Effective Attendance Practice in Schools: An Overview

This guidance states that schools should have “support systems in place for vulnerable groups which provide” among other things, signposting and access to external support for parents and pupils” and “training for staff on specific needs of pupils e.g. young carers”. Howell’s School has an attendance policy which identifies when to take action regarding attendance and how to provide support.

The National Carers Strategy (1999)

Chapter 8 of this Government strategy states that “schools need to be sensitive to the individual problems faced by young carers” and that “The Government will draw schools’ attention to effective practice in meeting the needs of pupils who are young carers, for example, through link arrangements with young carers’ services. Schools might find it helpful to have one member of staff to act as a link between young carers, the education welfare service, social services and young carers’ services.”

The Pastoral Deputy is the school’s link with outside agencies.

Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995; Carers and Disabled Children Act 2001; Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004

Between them these Acts give young carers varying rights to an assessment of their needs, which must take into account their right to an education. See the SCIE practice guide to the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004: www.scie.org.uk, commissioned by the Department of Health.

Supporting Young Carers in School: A step by step guide for leaders, teachers and non-teaching staff Wales edition 2017

This document provides structure for schools in identifying and supporting Young Carers and having appropriate measures in place. Howell’s uses this document as guidance.

ESTYN: Provision for Young Carers in Secondary Schools, Further Education Colleges and Pupil Referral Units Across. Wales May 2019

This report is used by the school to ensure standards are being met for best practice.

Updated October 2023