

Rationale

At Connaught we are committed to supporting Young Carers whose lives are affected by the role they play in looking after a parent or another family member. We respect them for what they do and work hard to ensure they have full access to education. We will provide pastoral support in order to relieve them of some of the emotional worries they may have as they perform tasks and responsibilities beyond their age.

We believe Young Carers are children or young people who help to look after a family member or members who may suffer from one or more of the following: physical disability, sensory disability, learning disability, mental health problems, chronic illness, substance misuse, alcohol misuse or long-term illness.

We acknowledge and endorse article 28 and 29 of the UN convention on the Rights of the Child which clearly state the 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.

Within Connaught Junior School, regardless of what is happening at home, we will provide for all children and young people equal access to education but will ensure that Young Carers are not carrying out inappropriate levels or excessive caring responsibilities. It is appropriate to have in place close working links with outside agencies in order to support Young Carers who undertake practical household tasks, physical care, personal care, medication administration, household management, care of younger siblings, provision of emotional support and interpreting for people they look after.

We realise that Young Carers may feel tired, worried and in some cases isolated from other children who enjoy and experience a variety of social activities.

We realise that we at Connaught play a very important part in identifying pupils who are young carers and need to offer them appropriate support, we also realise that it can often be very difficult to pick up on the signs that a child may be a young carer.

In order to support young carers effectively we need to be more aware of their circumstances in order for the school to register those who are entitled to extra funding under the pupil premium scheme which would potentially help young carers.

We are supporting and meeting the needs of Young Carers enabling them to have equal access to education and encouraging them to attend and enjoy everything that Connaught has to offer.

As a school community we have a commitment to promote equality. We all have a responsibility to ensure equality permeates into all aspects of school life and that everyone is treated equally, irrespective of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. We want everyone connected with Connaught to feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth.

In addition, at Connaught we understand the importance of having a good relationship with the Parents of Young Carers and working collaboratively with them in order to provide the best support for the Young Carer and their family. We do this through termly coffee mornings where parents of Young Carers have the opportunity to meet with other parents of Young Carers. School staff host the meeting and offer workshops around topics guided by the parents, they also signpost to other services when necessary.

Aims

- To provide support for Young Carers whose lives are affected by the role they play in looking after a parent or another family member.
- To respect Young Carers for what they do and to work hard to ensure they have full access to education and to provide pastoral support.
- To share good practice within the school and with other schools.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

Role of the Governing Body:

The Governing Body has:

- Appointed a member of school staff who has specific responsibility for supporting young carers.
- Responsibility for ensuring the school complies with all equalities legislation.

Role of the Senior Leadership Team

The Head teacher and senior leadership team will:

- Undertake a review of the school's current provision for young carers by:
 1. Meeting with young carers to understand how well our provision is meeting their needs;
 2. Examining the impact of provision on pupil attainment, pupil progress and attainment;
 3. Assessing the impact of provision on pupil well-being;
 4. Identifying strengths
 5. Identifying weaknesses
 6. Identifying priorities;
- Ensure all school personnel are aware of the role of the designated Young Carers Champion with responsibility for supporting young carers;
- Ask parents to inform the school if their child(ren) is/are acting as a young carer;
- Work hard to secure additional funding for young carers;
- Acknowledge and respect the role of young carers
- Ensure all school personnel treat young carers in a sensitive manner;
- Ensure all school uphold confidentiality.

Role of the Designated Young Carers Champion

The designated Young Carers Champion will;

- Treat young carers sensitively;
- Liase with all young carers and respond to their needs;
- Establish what caring role they undertake;
- Provide relevant support
- Ensure confidentiality at all times;
- Protect a family's privacy and only share information on a need to know basis;
- Liase with relevant colleagues within school;
- Liase with Surrey Young Carers and other relevant external agencies with the permission of the young carers family;
- Ensure the young carers have full access to the curriculum;
- Provide guidance and support to all staff to identify those pupils who may be undertaking a caring role such as:
 1. Known illness or disability in family
 2. Being persistently late or absent
 3. Demonstrating poor concentration
 4. Often tired or worn out
 5. Displays anxiety, looks worried or is distressed
 6. Demonstrates low self-esteem
 7. Academic performance is below potential

Headteacher: Miss S McGann Deputy Headteacher: Miss K Whiting

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8. Homework is often uncompleted
9. Behavioural problems
10. Lacks social skills
11. Displays bullying behaviours
12. Feels isolated from peers
13. Lack of participation in after school clubs
14. Poor attendance of parents at parent-teacher consultations

- Share information, agreed with the young carers family, to the new school that a young carer may be transferring to;
- Ensure the parents of young carers are kept well informed of their child's education;
- Provide training for all staff;
- Keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- Review and monitor.

Role of School Staff

School staff will:

- Ensure young carers have full access to the curriculum;
- Treat young carers sensitively;
- Ensure confidentiality at all times;
- Always speak to a young carer in private and not in front of their peers;
- Be understanding and sympathetic to young carers needs;
- Work in partnership with parents and carers keeping them up to date with their child's progress and behaviour at school.

Role of Young Carers

Young Carers will:

- Be aware of the designated Young Carers Champion;
- Have access to a telephone during break time or lunchtime to phone home;
- Negotiate deadlines for homework;
- Be encouraged to attend after school or lunchtime clubs;
- Be made aware of the Young Carers Service.

Role of the Young Carers Parents

Young Carers Parents will:

- Keep school staff notified of any changes to circumstances that may affect the Young Carer;
- Attend any support group/coffee mornings held at school (where possible).