

# **YOUNG CARERS' POLICY**

**Named Person:** J Chisholm  
**Senior Staff:** A Doolan  
**Governor:** J Fairbairn

## **HOW CAN BGS HELP YOUNG CARERS?**

At Beverley Grammar 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 we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Our School:

- Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help. (Mrs Chisholm)
- Runs SPACE lessons on the challenges faced by young carers during year 2010-2011.
- Can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- 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 alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. detention, sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role.
- Allows young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Can give parents advice about how to get their children into school where transport is a problem.

### **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, which gives guidance on S. 17 of the Act, 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 paragraph 3.61 – 3.63.

**DFES Advice and guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance: groups of pupils at particular risk** (replaced Circular 10/99 Social Inclusion: Pupil Support).

- “Young carers should not be expected to carry inappropriate levels of caring which have an adverse impact on their development and

### **TEACHERS’ ACTION LIST**

1. Speak to the young person in private – do not confront them in front of their peers. Explain the confidentiality rules that you operate within an age-appropriate language.
2. Establish what caring task they are performing and why. Find out how their caring role affects them: Are they being bullied? Do they struggle with schoolwork? Do they miss out on extra-curricular activities? Do they worry when they are out of contact with home? How can you help with these issues?
3. With the young person’s permission, speak to their parent/s and explain the effect that the young person’s caring role is having on their education. Are there other forms of support open to the family or another family member that could help more? Remember – few parents choose a caring role for their child: it is often the only option they are aware of and many feel very guilty about the effect their illness/disability has on their child.
4. Explain to parents and children that they may be entitled to an assessment of their needs from social services, who may be able to help them.
5. Help the family to contact other agencies or your nearest Young Carers Project if they want you to.
6. Work out a plan with the family that is realistic and achievable and that will let the young carer attend school and get the most from their education.

### **YOUNG CARERS TOP TIPS FOR TEACHERS**

“Every school will have young carers and just one individual teacher or support carer being involved can make a huge difference” (Young Carer)

**Here are their TOP TEN TIPS on what teachers need to know about young carers and how they can help.**

- Let us phone parents if we need to.
- Take time to find out about individual problems at home. Sometimes we’re too embarrassed to tell you ourselves.
- Don’t automatically punish us if we’re late. Sometimes we can’t help being late because we’re helping out at home.

- Find out about us, what we need and how we are not like other students.
- Our responsibility as carers can affect our education and schoolwork.
- Provide more support such as lunchtime drop-in or homework clubs.
- Be flexible – give us more time and help to do homework or coursework.
- Include information about young carers in SPACE lessons.
- Ask people who used to be young carers to come in and explain to other students what it is like
- Cover the subject of young carers during Inset Days for teachers.