

Ysgol Pentrehafod

Pentrehafod School



Young Carers' Policy

Polisi Gofalwyr Ieuainc

Reviewed November 2019

Adolygu ddiw Tachwedd 2019

Next Review November 2022

'Adolygiad nesaf Tachwedd 2022

Reviewed by Mr D Evans, Assistant Headteacher

November 19



Young Carers' Policy

Pentrehafod School is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers at Pentrehafod School are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

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 personal, mental, emotional and physical ability to their fullest potential.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone at home. Most are caring for a parent, commonly in a single parent family, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparents or other relative. In some instances a young carer may care for more than one family member.

The person they look after will have one or more of:

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problems
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

Caring Tasks

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young carer has to deal with can range from:

Nursing care – giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility etc.

Personal intimate care – washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements.



Emotional care – being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the

person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.

Domestic care – doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc.

Financial care – running the household, bill paying and benefit collection. **Child care** - taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

Possible effect on education

Pentrehafod School acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education.

Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibly at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Displaced anxiety, where worry about the person for whom they are caring is translated to routine, everyday issues
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness at school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
- Lack of time for extracurricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying



- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

Pentrehafod School recognised that it might also be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about child being taken into care, restrictions due to the parents' health), fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called into question). They may be unable to attend parents' evenings.

Support Offered

Pentrehafod School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, Pentrehafod School is giving the message that young carers' education is important.

The designated link worker in school for young carers is L Francis (PAWB), who will liaise with relevant colleagues, City and County of Swansea, Young Carers and other relevant agencies with the consent of the young carer. The designated link Governor is Chair of Governors Mrs M Hughes.

Pentrehafod School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to a member of staff of their own choice in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.

Pentrehafod School appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.

Pentrehafod School will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.

Pentrehafod School will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.

Pentrehafod School has a member of the Young Carers Group sitting on the School Council.

Pentrehafod School will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

Pentrehafod School will promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.

Pentrehafod School recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):



- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to phone home
- Negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)
- Access to homework clubs (where these are available)
- Lunchtime detentions rather than after school detentions (where possible)
- Arrangements for schoolwork to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis); arrangements for work to be accessed online. Any approved absence for a young carer will be **time** limited.
- Access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound.
- Alternative methods of meeting parents, including meeting them in their own home, if illness or other issues prevent them meeting at school.
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school.
- Access to examination invigilation arrangements which meet the young carer's particular needs.
- Regular contact with home and communication with any young carer group/advocate with whom the young carer is involved.

This Policy was presented to Governors on **27th November 2019**.

It will be reviewed in **March 2023** or if National and Local Policy or Guideline is updated.

Signed.....
Mrs M Hughes
Chair of Governors