

# PENRICE ACADEMY

## YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Review Date: July 2018

At Penrice Academy we understand that pupils at our Academy may have caring roles at home.

Penrice Academy believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities.

When a young person does look after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, they may need a little extra support to help them get the most out of school.

Penrice Academy aims to understand the issues faced by young carers and to have a separate policy for young carers stating how we will support any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Penrice Academy aims to support young carers through a whole-school approach and through working with other agencies and professionals, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the young carer.

### **What is a Young Carer?**

A young carer is a child or young person under 18, who helps to care for someone at home. This is often a family member such as a parent, sibling or grandparent. They may care for more than one family member at a time.

The person who they care for may have:

- Physical disability
- Learning disability
- Long term illness
- Mental health issues
- Substance misuse issues

Caring tasks may include:

- Personal Care - administering medication, changing, dressing or assisting with mobility.
- Intimate Care - washing, dressing and assisting with toileting requirements.
- Emotional Support - helping to meet the emotional needs of the person.
- Household Chores - these may include washing, cooking and cleaning- in some cases for the whole family-shopping and the payment of bills and dealing with finance.
- Childcare - helping to look after younger siblings, including taking them to school.

Penrice Academy acknowledges this may affect a young carer's education. The extra responsibilities of a young carer can impact on a child's/young person's education and emotional and physical well-being. It is possible that due to this they may:

- Arrive late in College
- Have erratic attendance

- Not complete homework on time or at all
- Underachieve academically
- May not be able to attend after-school clubs or detentions
- Parents may not be available to attend parents evenings
- Suffer emotional distress
- Be consistently tired
- May experience a lack of concentration in lessons.
- Experience bullying
- Display behavioural issues
- Have low self esteem
- Have difficulty socialising with peers

### **Support Available to Young Carers.**

Penrice Academy acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to enable them to have equal access to education. This policy reflects Penrice Academy's commitment to supporting young carers' needs and gives the message that a young carer's education is important.

As a result Penrice Academy has assigned one person as a designated link to young carers in school. This person is Lynne Gouldsmith, Safeguarding Admin Manager who is based in the Safeguarding Office. She will liaise with relevant members of staff, the family, the local Young Carers and any other agencies involved. The right to pupil's and families' privacy will be respected and the Academy will only share information with professionals and agencies on a "need to know basis" in order to support pupils and families. Kay Adams, Senior Vice Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead, has overall responsibility for Young Carers within Penrice Academy.

At all times Young Carers will be treated in a sensitive and caring way, upholding confidentiality.

Penrice Academy will also introduce any young carer to the relevant Pastoral Manager linked to their year, providing opportunities to speak in private and away from peers. The Pastoral Managers will also liaise with the Designated Link to young carers.

Penrice Academy recognises that a young carer may not feel comfortable to discuss their caring role. This will be acknowledged and respected by all staff.

Young Carers in Penrice Academy will be offered an automatic referral to the services of Kernow Young Carers. This will be through the designated member of staff.

Penrice Academy will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carers at risk of any significant harm due to inappropriate level of caring.

Penrice Academy will promote discussion and through the curriculum facilitate comprehensive level of understanding, acceptance and respect surrounding illness, disability and caring. This will be facilitated through PSHE lessons in school and staff training.

Penrice Academy will identify those Young Carers at risk of falling into the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and take appropriate action to address this.

Penrice Academy will offer support to the young person and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school/college lead for young carers and their families.

Penrice Academy will allow young carers to use the telephone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes, so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member.

Penrice Academy will provide a display board for Young Carers, providing up to date information.

Penrice Academy acknowledges that extra support for young carers may be needed to enable them to access all areas of school curriculum. This includes flexibility in responding to their needs:

- A young carer's card. This will allow a young carer to have access to a phone in school at break times and lunch times to phone home and can be shown to staff in times of crisis to excuse them from a lesson to see their Pastoral Manager.
- Young carers will also show the card to explain lateness. However, no more than two late arrivals a week will be accepted without contact with the parent.
- Flexibility with homework deadlines.
- Lunchtime detentions rather than after-school detentions, where possible.
- Access to Ed-Lounge when there is a crisis at home. This will still allow them still to access education at home. Absences for young carers will however be time limited.
- Provision for alternative communication with parents who are unable to attend target setting days and parent evenings.
- Advice available to parents regarding transport issues.

Please contact Lynne Gouldsmith the Designated Young Carer link for further information.