

Isaac Newton Academy Young Carers Policy

At Isaac Newton Academy our aim is to equip every student with the knowledge, learning power and character necessary for success at university and beyond. We believe unswervingly that, regardless of background or prior attainment, every student entering the Academy has the potential to leave with a set of qualifications that will enable them to pursue their education at a top university. Fundamental to the realisation of this challenging aspiration is an absolute commitment to providing a learning environment where all students, including young carers, make exceptional progress and fulfil their potential. We believe young people should have equal access to education, regardless of their home circumstances and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities. We recognise that young carers may need additional support to help them progress at the same rate as their peers.

The definition of a young carer is as defined in section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014:
A person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person (of any age, except where that care is provided for payment, pursuant to a contract or as voluntary work).

Young carers help look after a member of the family who is sick, disabled or has mental health problems, or is misusing drugs or alcohol. Their day to day responsibilities often include cooking, cleaning, shopping, providing nursing and personal care and giving emotional support. With so many adult responsibilities, young carers often miss out on opportunities that other young people have to play and learn.

A young carer may do some or all of the following:

- Practical tasks, such as preparing meals and drinks
- Physical care, such as lifting, helping a parent on stairs or with physiotherapy
- Personal care, such as washing, dressing, administering medication, changing dressings, and/or helping with toileting needs
- Domestic tasks, such as cleaning, managing the family budget, paying bills, collecting benefits and prescriptions
- Looking after or parent younger siblings
- Providing emotional support, such as staying at home keep the person they care for company
- Interpreting, due to a hearing or speech impairment or because English is not the family's first language.

At Isaac Newton Academy we:

1. Endeavour to identify young carers and ensure that they have the same access to the curriculum and enrichment opportunities as their peers
2. Monitor and evaluate data on the young carers that we have identified, examine the progress that they make and intervene as appropriate
3. Promote open communication with the families of young carers to support their parenting capacity and encourage the sharing of information
4. Involve the school nurse in supporting improved health outcomes for young carers, where applicable

5. Use PSHE lessons to explore the roles and responsibilities of young carers and to promote positive images of disability and mental ill health and to challenge stereotypes and discrimination **(Do we do this?)**
6. Treat young carers in a sensitive way, upholding confidentiality, whilst considering a whole family approach.
7. Follow child protection & safeguarding procedures in relation to any young carer who is at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate caring responsibilities or an inappropriate level of care giving
8. Recognise that every young carer's situation is different and that flexibility is required when responding to his/her needs. We will consider access to support such as counselling and IL support, access for parents/carers with mobility issues and alternative communication options for parents/carers with sensory impairment or who are housebound
9. Liaise with other agencies such as Barnado's to engage appropriate support
10. Work with the family and the EWO to ensure that a young carer's attendance and punctuality is not adversely affected by his/her caring role.

Reviewed June 2018