



If you can dream it...
Ysgol Bae Baglan

Ysgol Bae Baglan

Young Carers Policy

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Date passed by Governing Body: March 27th 2018

Chairman.....

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'E.V. Latham', is written over a dotted line.

Ysgol Bae Baglan is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers at Ysgol Bae Baglan 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 the 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 relatives. 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 responsibility 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 young siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

Possible effect on education

Ysgol Bae Baglan 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 extra-curricular 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.

Ysgol Bae Baglan recognises 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

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

The designated link teacher for young carers is Richard Rees, Deputy Headteacher, who will liaise with relevant colleagues, Neath and Port Talbot LA, Young Carers and other relevant agencies with the consent of the young carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated link. The designated link Governor is Mr Dave Davies.

Ysgol Bae Baglan 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.

Ysgol Bae Baglan 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.

Ysgol Bae Baglan will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.

Ysgol Bae Baglan will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.

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

Ysgol Bae Baglan 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.

Ysgol Bae Baglan 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.