

Dear governors

Meeting the needs of young carers at The Burton Academy: Information for governors

At The Burton Academy we are aware that some of our pupils are young carers – children under 18 who are caring unpaid for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. Young carers are a vulnerable and disadvantaged group who frequently experience difficulties in their education as a result of their caring role. They are specifically mentioned in Ofsted’s evaluation inspection schedule and are often eligible for free school meals and Pupil Premium Funding.

Identifying and supporting pupils with caring responsibilities is a low cost and effective way of improving the attainment of this often low achieving pupil group. We are therefore keen to ensure that our governors have the information and resources they need to consider the needs of young carers as part of their evaluation of the school’s provision and how well it meets the needs of our pupils.

As part of the Young Carers in Schools programme, a national initiative to equip schools and award effective practice, Carers Trust and The Children’s Society have produced specific resources for governors. Relevant resources are enclosed and include:

- Key information about young carers and the potential impact a caring role can have on a pupil’s academic achievement, attendance and wellbeing.
- The roles and responsibilities of the governing body in ensuring effective provision for young carers.
- Frequently asked questions for school governors and senior leadership teams.
- A checklist to support governing bodies in evaluating the effectiveness of their school’s provision.
- Further information about the Young Carers in Schools programme.

We recommend that governors schedule an agenda item to discuss their school’s support for young carers. We encourage the governing body to consider appointing a lead governor with this remit and to agree how the governing body will carry out its responsibilities in relation to young carers.

The school has appointed a Young Carers’ School Operational Lead who will carry out a baseline review of the school’s current provision for young carers and their families.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Anita Perram
Deputy designated Safeguarding Lead