



Woodlands Academy Newsletter

27th September 2024

Young Carers Award



Woodlands Academy wins award for young carer support

Bristol school, Woodlands Academy, has been given a Young Carers Award for their work to make sure students don't miss out on an education because they are young carers.

The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award.

'We are all really proud of the work Mrs Sheldon has done putting provision in place for this key group of children. The children like to know that there are other children with similar experiences and enjoy the opportunities to do activities together allowing them to gel as a supportive group and know that a school adult is there for them emotionally, academically and socially.' Miss Craig, Principal.

One of our Young Carers said "I always know Mrs Sheldon is there for me. I have now achieved my white reading band. I have more courage. My attendance has improved, I have been in every day and on time this term. I feel more understood after mum spoke to the teachers. I have learnt to say no to people."

Young carers are responsible for emotional, practical or physical care for a parent, sibling or other family member who has a physical disability, mental health issue or substance misuse issue. Census statistics revealed that there are just over 166,000 young carers in England, but research reveals that this is just the tip of the iceberg. The true figure could be closer to 800,000 young carers in England, equivalent to one in five secondary aged school children many of whom are unrecognised and unsupported.

Research carried out by Carers Trust and The Children's Society shows that, on average, young carers miss or cut short 48 school days a year and often have lower levels of self-confidence, mental wellbeing and significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level, because of their caring role. Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework states that inspectors will look at how well schools support young carers. While some schools are doing this really well, others struggle and this causes real problems for young carers.

To help schools support young carers, the programme offers a step-by-step guide for leaders, teachers and non-teaching staff, with practical tools designed to make it as easy as possible for schools. Staff can also receive training through webinars and events and the programme also features a newsletter each term highlighting relevant policy developments, spotlighting good practice and giving updates on the programme's successes.

Joss Tagg, Young Carers Service Manager at Carers Support Centre Bristol and South Gloucestershire commented, "To achieve the Young Carers Award, Woodlands Academy has demonstrated their good practice and ability to meet the needs of young carers."

Giles Meyer, Chief Executive of Carers Trust, today congratulated Award-winning schools, saying: "The Young Carers in Schools programme is helping to transform schools and support staff across England. Schools play a vital role in a young carer's life, as many care for relatives without their teachers even knowing what they do. On average young carers will miss a day of school each month as a result of their caring role, so the steps schools take to identify and support them can have a huge impact on their learning, wellbeing and life chances."

Luella Goold, Service Manager at The Children's Society, is delighted that the Young Carers in Schools Programme is bringing about national change.

"Hundreds of schools across England are participating in the Young Carers in Schools programme, using the tools and resources to improve their support systems, and ensuring that no child need miss out on educational opportunities because they are a carer. 74% of schools who have achieved a Young Carers in Schools Award have noticed improved attendance among their young carers, and 94% have noticed improvements in their wellbeing and confidence."

Important Messages



Free School Meals

If you believe you may be entitled to benefits-based free school meals, please make an application to Bristol City Council via this website

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/travel-and-free-school-meals/free-school-meals>

This process brings additional pupil premium money into schools for six years, so even if your circumstances change for a week, it is still worth applying to get more funding into the schools your child is attending. For example, if a parent in Y6 is accepted for free school meals, the secondary schools will still get government funding to enhance provision for pupil premium children for a number of years even if they are no longer entitled to free school meals.

School Photographs

We have been made aware of a couple of people that have been disappointed with their children's school photos. Where a parent has contacted the company directly, solutions are being found.

Reception and Secondary Applications for September 2025 - DEADLINE IS OCTOBER FOR YEAR 6 APPLICATIONS

Reception

The window for applying for Reception 2025 places opens on Thursday 12th September 2024, and closes on Wednesday 15th January 2025. We will be holding open days for all prospective parents (more info to follow). If you are aware of any friends or family who are looking for reception places, please feel free to make them aware of our school. Applications for reception places can be made here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/primary-apply>

Secondary

The window for applying for secondary 2025 places also opens on Thursday 12th September 2024, however the window closes on Thursday 31st October 2024. You can make your application here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/secondary-apply>

If you require a paper application but you don't have access to a printer, please speak to the school office and they will be happy to print one for you.

Website

Please note the old website has now gone. We do have a new website, which can be found here: <https://woodlandsacademy.clf.uk/>. At this stage, please note that there are still errors as this has been created by a website team in the trust and Woodlands staff still haven't been trained to make changes, but items like policies and some curriculum information is appropriate. It is still okay to use the website as a point of reference as needed, but please do contact the school office if you can't find what you are looking for. We will let you know when Woodlands staff have had a chance to review the content.

Parentmail/Contacts/Ordering Lunches

Please make sure your Parentmail is working and up to date. New families please liaise with our admin team to get set up.

If your contact details e.g. phone number, email address, postal address etc have changed, please let us know urgently.

Please remember to order lunches in advance.

Drop off and Pick Up Time

Please make sure children are in school and sat down ready to be registered by 8:50am.

Please note the playground gates close at 8:48am to ensure children have enough time to be sat in class before the register is taken.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pick up time is 3:20pm.

Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 pick up time is 3:25pm.

School Values

Just a reminder to our Woodlands families that our school values are:

Ready Respectful Resilient

We will work with your children supporting them to follow these values helping them to be excellent citizens in school and out

Mental Health and Wellbeing



Diet and exercise have a significant impact on our mental health and wellbeing. If you would like some ideas on how to improve as a family, please take a look at the following website:
<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/>

Attendance



Well done to everyone who has been in school every day and on time this week. Every day counts!

Our attendance policy is on the new school website with term time dates below. Please make sure you are aware of the policy (as it is new this year) and our school term dates to avoid booking holidays in term time. <https://woodlandsacademy.cdf.uk/content/our-academy/attendance/>

Our Local Community Events/Activities



Please note these events and clubs are not run by school or school staff, so make sure you contact them directly.

NO UPDATES THIS WEEK