

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Drove Primary School, we want Young Carers to be recognised, feel supported and know they have someone to speak to if they need help. We have a Young Carers Policy and we have been talking about Young Carers in school assemblies and PSHE lessons.

Young Carers are children and young people, up to the age of 18, whose lives are affected by looking after someone. This may include physical or learning disabilities, long term illness, mental health illness, or drug or alcohol challenges. This may be a parent, brother, sister or other family member. The care they give maybe physical and /or emotional. These responsibilities may include:

- Personal care
- Housework
- Lifting
- Shopping
- Giving Medication
- Looking after brothers or sisters
- Cheering them up
- Helping fill in forms
- Reminding them to do things

If you feel your child may be a Young Carer please let me know so that we can help.

In addition to support at school, you may also want to consider making a referral to Swindon Carers Centre. The next steps after referral are:

Every young carer can have an assessment of their needs. This will be completed by a Young Carers Support Worker and will help find the best services for the young carer. This normally takes about an hour and a Support Worker can meet in your own home or arrange an appointment at school. Once the assessment has been carried out, the Young Carers Support Worker will offer a number of choices based on the level of that assessment, that may include the following:

- telephone, text or e-mail support
- time out, away from home with a Young Carers Support Worker
- activities in small groups during school holidays
- short breaks and residential trips
- weekly/fortnightly groups mixing with other young carers of the same age.
- referral to other projects or groups
- possible funding for individual activities

Further information and referral forms can be found here: <http://www.swindoncarers.org.uk/for-carers/young-carers/>

If you would like further information about support for Young Carers at Drove Primary School, you can return the slip below to me.

Child's Name.....

Class.....

I think my child may be a Young Carer and I wish to discuss with the school Young Carer Lead	Yes/No
My child is a Young Carer and I wish to discuss with the school Young Carer Lead <b>but</b> I do not wish for a referral to be made at this time	Yes/No
My child is a Young Carer and I wish to discuss a referral to Swindon Young Carers	Yes/No

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Renowden, Young Carer Lead

