

# YOUNG CARERS INFORMATION

## WHO ARE YOUNG CARERS?

A person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person of any age – siblings, parents etc.

This relates to care for any family member who is physically or mentally ill, frail, elderly, disabled or misuses alcohol, or substances.

Young carers do practical tasks, physical care, personal care, managing the family budget, administering medication, emotional support or interpreting.  
<https://youtu.be/R1hCd8F89W4>

There are 800,000 young carers aged 5-17 caring for an adult or family member in the UK.

27% of young carers aged 11-15 miss school due to their caring role and 1 in 3 young carers struggle with their mental health.

## WHAT DO WE OFFER AT POLYMAT?

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner for England, said:

*"Young carers are providing immeasurable support to their families, sometimes at the cost of their own education. It is our job to support young carers, such that they can go on to achieve their ambitions. We should be no less ambitious for young carers than we are for all children."*

The Designated Safeguarding Leads at both schools have assigned a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead to look after and be a champion for Young Carers in the School. Emma Smith has appointed Rachel Brown at WPG, and Desiree Kouame has appointed Lucie Nash at WPB.

All staff have had training on what it means to be a young carer and in addition all students have had information assemblies to identify themselves, from Imago a local charity.

Young carers will have the opportunity to meet with the champion weekly, individually or as a group. They will have personalised support which will allow them to have a flexible timetable if needed, access to the hardship fund for trips, uniform and lunch/breakfast if needed and they will also be offered weekly tuition if necessary and extensions for homework if required.

