



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Together we make a difference

Dobcroft Junior School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Following our initial Young Carers letter that we sent to you back in September, as a school we have been working on a new project with Sheffield Young Carers (a voluntary support service in Sheffield) to increase support for our pupils who are helping to look after a family member. This could be a parent, a grandparent, a sibling or somebody else who lives at home. There are at least 7000 young people in Sheffield who help to look after someone (in some capacity) at home due to disability, long term physical illness, mental health difficulties or substance misuse issues and we are certain that we have some wonderful young carers amongst our DJS community who may be entitled to able to access more support than they currently receive.

As a school we are progressing along in the project and we now have a Young Carer Lead (Louise Fear) and a senior leader link (Sheree Doyle) and school has worked in collaboration with Sheffield Young Carers as well as other schools. Louise Fear is now an identified point of contact for pupils, families, and staff related to pupils who may be young carers. The team at DJS have been working closely with teachers and pupils to raise awareness of young carers and we have now carried out our young carer assemblies and questionnaires to help us to identify potential young carers within our DJS community.

Based on our initial questionnaires, we have followed up with some of our pupils who we felt may have indicated to us that they have a potential caring role in some capacity. Our next step is to now get in touch with parents and carers of those identified pupils to offer support and explain what could be accessed as a potential young carer. Of course, engagement is not mandatory but we are hopeful to work collaboratively with families in a range of ways, providing optional supportive strategies, such as:

- School would offer the child / family a link worker who would be a key point of contact for the pupil and family.
- Regular (optional) group sessions for the pupil which would enable our DJS young carers to informally connect with other young carers and do fun activities together, making new connections and establish that they have a support network within their school setting.
- Optional sign posting / referrals to outside support agencies and support groups for the pupil or family.
- Additional offers from a local charity called Sheffield Young Carers, which provides a range of support over one year, including one-to-one sessions, an evening group work programme, school holiday activities, and access to a counselling service for those who need it.
- Sheffield Young Carers (SYC) also has a family project that can support adults who have long-term physical illnesses, mental illnesses, disabilities and/or substance misuse issues, as long as their child is being supported by SYC.

Thank you for taking the time to read and digest the above information. We are very much looking forward to working collaboratively with our families within this project. Please do get in touch if you have any worries or questions.

Kind regards,

Louise Fear – Young Carers Lead at Dobcroft Junior School

Sheree Doyle – Senior Leader Link for Young Carers at Dobcroft Junior School

