

YOUNG CARERS IDENTIFIED AND SUPPORTED AT SCHOOL

Young carers are receiving the support they need after being identified by Miss Graham and the school.

A young carer is described as someone under the age of 18 who helps to look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition or drug or alcohol problem, or younger sibling.

Haileybury Turnford has been able to identify children who are young carers – and whose families may not have previously realised they qualified as such.

Miss Graham (SEN Link Worker) underwent training to ensure any young person at the school who is acting as a young carer can be given the help and support they need.

The average number of young carers is two or three young carers per class, nationally. But, with a lot of young carers, you would not even know they were carrying out the role. Even someone who is having to translate for their parents and who does not speak English is considered a young carer. In a number of cases you would never know what young carers are dealing with as it is just part of their life and normalised routine and they do not know any different.

The school has put up a display board outlining what a young carer is and now holds a weekly drop-in session for students to talk about their circumstances at home. The drop-in session is an opportunity for young carers to get together and feel supported about sharing their experiences and acknowledging there are other students who are in similar situations as themselves. They are also provided with a lunch time pass, so they can get their lunch early, and are welcome to drinks and snacks and to play games together. Essentially, it is for them to be able to enjoy some time away from their caring role.

There is also a summer day trip being organised for them. We want to give them a really fun day out, away from their responsibilities, and to show them that we care about them and want to give them the rewards that they deserve, as they give so much to others.