



## Ling Bob J I & N School are the 1st School in Calderdale to win an award for young carer support (April 2017)

Ling Bob J I & N School have been given a Bronze award for their work in making sure children who are Young Carers don't miss out on any of their education.

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.

'I am so proud of the School for winning this award, and the commitment of all staff in ensuring that children who are young carers receive the education that they deserve. To be the first School in Calderdale to receive this prestigious award is the icing on the cake' - Jeanette Bolton (Young Carer Lead & Pastoral Team Leader).

### *Statement from Calderdale Young Carers*

'Young carers are documented to have a range of issues at school including, lower attendance and GCSE results, interrupted concentration, bullying and are as a group more likely to be NEET.

Ling Bob School have made efforts to learn about, and understand Young Carers, learning from the young people they support and recognising them as the experts on how support should look.

According to Carers Trust's research, only 22% of young carers previously received an assessment of their needs. 2015 saw a change to the Children and families act, legislating that local authorities must offer an assessment to all young people with a caring role with a view to ensure young people are fully

supported. This would be impossible if it was not for schools like Ling Bob being proactive in identifying Young Carers and putting support in place'.

*Information from the Carers trust who have facilitated the award*

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. The 2011 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 700,000 young carers in England, equivalent to one in 12 school children many of whom are unrecognised and unsupported.

Recent 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.

"To achieve their Bronze Award [insert name of school] has demonstrated that it supports young carers in many ways, including homework clubs and drop-in sessions with a member of staff who is responsible for this vulnerable group of pupils. Vital information about how to identify young carers is made available to all school staff, and noticeboards and the school webpage let students and their families know where to go for help".

The programme is open to all schools in England and to sign up schools just need to visit [www.youngcarersinschools.com](http://www.youngcarersinschools.com)

Gail Scott-Spicer, Chief Executive of Carers Trust, says: "Schools play a vital role in a young carer's life, but many care for relatives without their teachers even knowing what they do. On average young carers will miss half a day of school each fortnight 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."

Jenny Frank, young carer programme director at The Children's Society, is confident that the Young Carers in Schools Programme will bring about national change. "This is a giant leap forward in the way schools can make sure no child misses out on an education because they are a carer. Importantly, we are not just telling schools to improve, we are giving them a clear set of steps to help them improve their support systems, and then recognising the work they do with young carers."