

Step 3

Tool 3: Role and responsibilities of a governing body: Ensuring effective provision for young carers and their families

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Governors play a crucial role in holding schools to account for pupil achievement, the quality of teaching and the effective and efficient deployment of resources.

The effectiveness to which the governing body performs this role is evaluated as part of Ofsted inspections, with inspectors looking for governors who can evaluate the school's strengths and weaknesses effectively and use their findings to promote improvement.

To fulfil this role effectively, governors should:

- Acknowledge that many pupils attending their school have caring responsibilities and therefore have specific needs for which the school should be making adequate provision.
- Ensure the needs of young carers are reflected in whole school planning and, where appropriate, are included in the whole school improvement plan.
- Develop and maintain up-to-date knowledge about issues relating to young carers and their families, as well as relevant national and local developments, including changes in legislation and guidance.
- Ensure they regularly receive and evaluate reports from the school's senior leadership team about how the school caters for young carers. Reports should identify strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations for further improvement so that young carers enjoy school and make good progress. Such reports may be discussed as discrete agenda items on young carers or as part of wider discussions, for example, on inclusion.
- Consider the needs of young carers, many whom are eligible for free school meals, when agreeing and reviewing use of Pupil Premium funding.