

Elmbridge Primary School leads way supporting young carers



PROUD MOMENT: Some of the young carers at Elmbridge Primary School show off accreditation certificates with head Glen Tharia and Gloucestershire Young Carers development manager Hana Gill, left, and Susan Wright.

GLOUCESTER'S Elmbridge Primary leads the way in supporting young carers among its 625 pupils, who often have to do household chores before and after a long school day.

It is currently the only primary school in the county to have received the new accreditation from Gloucestershire Young Carers, the organisation which provides practical and emotional support along with trips and activities for the 7,000 youngsters looking after relatives countywide.

Manda Reedman, Assistant Head and Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL) Lead at Elmbridge and Di Howard, the school's family support worker, have helped to identify pupils who have to cope with caring for disabled or unwell members of the family.

They then support and track the development of the school's 12 young carers, acting as a sounding board for any concerns they may have, facilitating help and linking them to the Gloucestershire Young Carers' network.

On being presented with accreditation certificates by Gloucestershire Young Carers development manager Hana Gill, Head teacher Glen Tharia said: "I feel extremely proud of our school and of our young carers who have shown great responsibility and kindness in looking after family members. The staff at Elmbridge Primary School have gone that extra mile to identify and support all of our children, especially our young carers."

