



# West View Primary School

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## Young Carers Policy

Policy approved by Local Academy Committee: May 2023

Date for Review: May 2025

## Statement of Intent

At West View Primary School, we take our statutory duty to protect and promote the welfare of all pupils very seriously, and aim to provide a community for pupils which keeps them safe, supports their creativity and enables them to meet their full potential.

As a school, we are committed to supporting young carers' access to a full education. This policy will be implemented by all staff members in order to ensure young carers at our school are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

The aim of this policy is to raise awareness among school staff about the needs of young carers and to support them in establishing a whole-school approach to address the issues that may arise within a school setting, in line with the school's statutory duty of care to young carers who are pupils at the school.

## Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- [Children Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)
- [Care Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)
- [Carers \(Equal Opportunities\) Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)
- [Carers \(Recognition and Services\) Act 1995 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)
- [Children and Families Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)
- [Education Act 2011 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)
- [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)
- [The Young Carers \(Needs Assessments\) Regulations 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)
- [Improving support for young carers: family-focused approaches - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [The lives of young carers in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [Help for young carers - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Attendance and Punctuality
- Behaviour
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Safeguarding

## Definition

*A young carer is someone who is under 18 years of age, who provides regular and ongoing care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, has a disability or misuses substances.*

They will take on **additional responsibilities** to those which are appropriate to their age and development.

Young carers may be:

- **Primary Carers** - such as caring for a parent
- **Secondary Carers** - such as helping to care for a sibling

A young carer becomes **vulnerable** when the level of care-giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes **excessive** or **inappropriate** for that child and risks jeopardising their emotional or physical wellbeing, educational achievement and life chances.

A young carer may undertake some or all of the following:

- Practical tasks
- Physical care
- Personal and intimate care
- Emotional support
- Household management
- Looking after siblings
- Interpretation
- Administering medication

### **Issues faced by young carers**

Caring responsibilities can impact on young people's education in a number of different ways including, but not limited to, the following:

- Lateness
- Tiredness
- Non-attendance
- Late or no submission of homework or other home learning activities
- Not participating in extra-curricular activities and school events
- Experiencing bullying or isolation
- Underachieving academically
- Poor education or career choices

Young carers may exhibit challenging behaviour in environments away from home in order to offset the fact that they have to take on adult responsibilities and behave in an adult manner within the home.

Many young carers may be unable to develop friendships outside of school, due to reasons such as being unable to invite friends to their home, thus restricting the development of a pupil's social skills.

Some young carers carry out tasks for which they are physically ill-equipped, which can impact on their overall health. Long term caring responsibilities can also impact significantly on the mental health of young people, which like their physical health, can lead to poor attendance at school.

Some families will be dependent solely on government benefits, affecting their ability to afford proper school clothing and/or extra-curricular activities such as school trips.

Families involving a young carer may be unwilling or unable to attend school functions, leading to them becoming more isolated from the school environment and unaware of issues that the young carer may be experiencing.

### **Identifying young carers**

During the induction process into school for new pupils, we will:

- Identify parents, carers or family members who have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health conditions
- Identify if the pupil has caring responsibilities
- Identify if the young carer has any additional needs that need to be supported e.g. learning, social, emotional or mental health needs
- Where necessary, establish individual plans to recognise the child's specific needs as a young carer
- Refer or signpost young carers and their families to other agencies and professionals, as appropriate, for support or a needs assessment

**Our local registered charity is: Hartlepool Carers**

[www.hartlepoolcarers.org.uk](http://www.hartlepoolcarers.org.uk)

19A Lowthian Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8BH      01429 283095



We will continuously bear in mind that where a parent has a disability, mental health or substance abuse issues, the child might be the carer whilst showing none of the indicative signs of a young carer.

Young carers can be referred to the service by completing the referral form via the Hartlepool Carers website: [www.hartlepoolcarers.org.uk/register](http://www.hartlepoolcarers.org.uk/register)

### **Young carers and the school**

The whole school is committed to meeting the needs of young carers so that they are able and encouraged to attend, enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers.

The Young Carer Lead, Miss Furness, is the main point of contact for young carers in the school. Pupils will be made aware of the identity of the school's Young Carer Lead as part of the wider team responsible for safeguarding within the school.

The Young Carer Lead is responsible for:

- Ensuring that young carers have the same access to a full education and career choices as their peers

- Promoting and coordinating the support young carers need
- Liaising with other agencies as appropriate, including adult services
- Ensuring that staff members are kept up-to-date with national and local developments, legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families



## Our Safeguarding Team



We are committed to the safeguarding and protection of our whole school community.



**Miss L. Furness**  
Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)  
Young Carers Lead



**Ms M. Clarke**  
Inclusion Manager  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)  
Senior Mental Health Lead



**Mrs N. Boagey**  
Assistant Headteacher  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)  
SENDCO



**Mrs S. McIntosh**  
Assistant Headteacher  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

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 Davison Drive  
 Hartlepool  
 TS24 9BP

01429 267466  
[Office@westview.adastraschools.org](mailto:Office@westview.adastraschools.org)

Hartlepool Children's Hub (CHUB) can be contacted directly on: 01429 284284

It is important that staff members can effectively identify young carers and that young carers feel that they can ask for help: therefore, raising awareness amongst staff, pupils and the wider community about the issues relating to young carers and the support available, is vital.

In order to ensure that everyone understands the issues faced by young carers, training and ongoing professional development is provided. As a minimum, all staff will complete 'Young Carer Aware' e-learning training provided by Hartlepool Carers and this learning will be refreshed and added to as part of a wider programme of professional development. All new staff will complete 'Young Carer Aware' training as part of their induction to school.

[www.hartlepoolcarers.org.uk/whatwedo/trainingandeducation](http://www.hartlepoolcarers.org.uk/whatwedo/trainingandeducation)

[Young Carer Aware \(hartlepoolcarers.org.uk\)](http://www.hartlepoolcarers.org.uk)

As a school, we will:

- Create a welcoming and friendly environment for all pupils in which young carers feel comfortable to discuss their situation
- Publish clear information regarding how pupils and their families can access support, ensuring that all pupils are aware of this information
- Establish and implement inclusive policies and practices which support young carers and promote good communication with their families
- Use the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of and respect for, issues such as caring, disability and impairment, embedding the challenges faced by young carers into PSHE lessons

## **Supporting young carers and their families**

As a school we will:

- Ensure that the school premises are accessible and welcoming to people with disabilities and/or illnesses, offering additional support to enable them to attend parent consultation meetings and other events
- Follow safeguarding procedures for any pupil who we believe to be at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
- Have an effective referral system and strong partnership in place with the local young carers service
- Actively seek feedback and ideas from young carers and their families in order to shape and improve provision for young carers
- Offer additional support to remove any communication barriers with parents and carers, so that they are able to be fully engaged with the education of their child
- Respect the privacy of young carers and ensure that information about them or their caring role is not communicated in front of their peers
- Offer support to the pupil and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school lead for young carers and their families
- Actively seek to reduce any barriers to education and learning experienced by eligible young carers to improve their wellbeing, attainment and attendance

## **Monitoring and Review**

The Headteacher will continually monitor and review practice within school to ensure that this policy is implemented correctly. Staff will be aware of other relevant school policies which will be implemented alongside this policy.

This policy will be reviewed formally by the Local Academy Committee, in consultation with the wider school community, every two years - or sooner if the government introduces new regulations or if the Local Academy Committee receives recommendations on how this policy might be improved.

This policy will be publicised to staff, parents and pupils and it will also be published on our school website.