



West View Primary School

Young Carers Policy

Policy approved by Local Governors: September 2025

Date for Review: September 2027

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 that young carers at West View Primary School are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

Legal Framework

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

[Children Act 1989](#)

This Act says what councils should do to help children and their families who may need extra help. It says they must:

- Work with communities so that young carers are recognised
- Carry out young carers' needs assessments - they must do this if a young person appears to need help or if the young carer or their family ask to be assessed
- Make sure that young carers and their families have the information they need and can access advice and support

[Care Act 2014](#)

This Act says councils must:

- Carry out assessments for older young carers (for example, young carers aged 16 and 17) to consider what their needs will be and what support will be required when they turn 18
- Make sure that young carers are not left with caring tasks that are too much for someone their age to deal with
- Identify children in the household and find out if they are young carers and what help they might need.

[Health and Care Act 2022](#)

This Act says that the NHS should work together with councils to:

- Identify young carers and make sure they have access to help and advice
- Consult young carers about the needs of the person they look after
- Consult young carers about changes in policies that affect them and their family or how health and social care services are delivered

It also says that if a young carer looks after an adult who is in hospital, then hospitals (including inpatient mental health services) should consult the young carer before they discharge the adult from hospital.

[Young Carers' Rights in England: Laws, Assessments, and Support](#)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school documents and policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Attendance and Punctuality Policy
- Behaviour Policy

- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Curriculum/Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Information Report/Policy
- Transition Policy

Definition

Legislation defines a 'young carer' as '*...a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person (of any age, except where that care is provided for payment, pursuant to a contract or as voluntary work).*'

A young carer might look after someone because they're sick or have a disability or mental health issues. Or, if a parent or family member has an alcohol or drug problem, they may be unable to care for themselves or anyone else.

Carers from ages 5 to 18 are known as young carers and often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. The tasks undertaken can vary according to the nature of the illness or disability, the level, and frequency of need for care and the structure of the family as a whole.

The following animation explains what a young carer is in a child-friendly way:

<https://youtu.be/gNBu9t1xBo4>

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 caregiving 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 tasks:

- Administering medication
- Emotional support
- Helping to get people out of the house
- Household management - including cleaning, cooking or managing money
- Interpretation
- Keeping an eye on someone
- Looking after siblings
- Personal/intimate care
- Physical care
- Shopping

Issues faced by young carers

Many young carers are hidden. This may be because:

- The condition of the person they care for is not obvious so people don't think that the young person needs any help
- Young carers do not realise that they are a carer or that their life is different to their peers
- They don't want to be any different from their peers so they don't draw attention to their caring role
- They believe that the school will show no interest in their family circumstances
- They want to keep their identity at school separate from their caring role
- It's not the sort of thing they feel that they can discuss with their friends
- There has been no opportunity to share their story
- They are worried about bullying
- They worry that the family will be split up and that they will be taken into care
- They want to keep caring a secret and/ or are embarrassed
- They see no reason to tell their story and don't believe that any positive action will occur as a result of doing so

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

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Long term caring responsibilities can impact significantly on the mental health of young people, which like their physical health, can lead to poor attendance at school.

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.

Physical Health

Young carers can be severely affected by caring through the night, resulting in a lack of sleep.

Some young carers carry out tasks for which they are physically ill-equipped, which can impact on their overall health.

Socialisation

Young carers often feel different or isolated from their peers and have limited opportunities for socialising - *a quarter of young carers in the UK said that they were bullied at school because of their caring role* (Sempik & Becker, 2013).

Stable environment

Young carers can experience traumatic life changes such as bereavement, family break up, losing income and housing, or seeing the effects of an illness or addiction on the person they care for.

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.

Learning

If left unsupported, young carers can continue to struggle with school and have significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level (The Children's Society, 2013). A young carer's education may be impacted in the following ways:

- Experiencing bullying or isolation
- Lateness
- Late or no submission of homework or other home learning activities
- Non-attendance
- Not participating in extra-curricular activities and school events
- Tiredness therefore unable to concentrate or focus on learning
- Underachieving academically leading to fewer career choices in the future

Identification

Through the [Care Act 2014](#) and [Children and Families Act 2014](#), the Government has shown its commitment to young carers by ensuring that they are protected from inappropriate or excessive caring. In order to ensure that the Government's commitment is achieved, children and young people who have caring responsibilities must be identified early and supported to fulfil their potential. The Government recognises that schools have a vital role to play and are ideally positioned to identify young carers and to initiate support. Doing so will ensure that they are able to fully participate in their education and have a fair start in life. Therefore, during the induction process for new pupils into West View Primary School, 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. social, emotional, mental health or learning 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

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

West View Primary School is wholly 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. This commitment includes:

- Creating a welcoming and friendly environment for all pupils in which young carers feel comfortable to discuss their situation
- Publishing clear information regarding how pupils and their families can access support, ensuring that all pupils are aware of this information
- Establishing and implementing inclusive policies and practices which support young carers and promote good communication with their families
- Using 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

The Young Carer Lead, Miss L. 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 that 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
Prevent Lead



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



Miss K. Tailford
Deputy Headteacher
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)



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

West View Primary School
01429 267466
Safeguarding@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.

Support

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, where this is required
- 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 Young Carer Lead, who is also the Headteacher, will continually monitor and review practice within school to ensure that this policy is implemented correctly. Staff will be made aware of other relevant school policies which will be implemented alongside this policy.

This policy will be reviewed formally by Local Governors, in consultation with the wider school community, every two years - or sooner if the government introduces new regulations or if Local Governors receive 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.