



WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Young Carers Policy



Introduction

This Young Carers Policy has been written by young carers/expert staff from Cheshire Young Carers and the staff and governors at Woodlands Primary School.

Commitment

Woodlands commitment to young carers is to support the emotional and academic needs of young carers to achieve in their education and to aspire in education as people, regardless of complexities of needs and home.

This policy explains how we will live up to our commitment.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with or carrying out significant physical or emotional caring role and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be taken by an adult.

They can be caring for any of the following:

- Parent or sibling suffering from a mental illness
- Parent or sibling with a physical disability
- Parent or sibling with substance misuse problems
- Parent or sibling with learning disabilities
- Parent or sibling with a terminal illness
- Parent or sibling with sensory needs
- Parent or sibling with English as an additional language

Young Carers and the effects on their education

Being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education, because of their responsibilities at home. A young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger and frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

Quotes from young carers

Tom age 10

"I worry about my dad all day when I am at school and find it hard to concentrate"

Jenny age 9

"I need someone to talk to at school about my home life"

Amy age 8

"I feel worried about my mum when I am in school; I feel upset and can't tell my friends"

Support offered

Woodlands Primary School ensures that the following support is available for all young carers within the school.

- Woodlands Primary School has identified Young Carer's Representatives.
 - Claire Brierley – School Counsellor & Deputy Safeguarding Lead
 - Clare Cotton – Learning Mentor

In absence of any of the above our named person is Mrs Kathryn Kennedy – Designated Safeguarding Lead.

- For a full role description of the Young Carers Representative – **see appendix 1**
- All staff are made aware of who their Young Carers Representatives are and the reporting/referral process to these people. **(CPOMS System)**
- The school has an internal effective reporting system between all staff and the young carer's representative. **(REF Safeguarding Policy & CPOMS System)**
- Any child/young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at the school will be referred to the appropriate services.
- School has a procedure for identifying young carers on enrolment into the school **(REF- Questionnaire can be found in the school induction pack)**
- When a young carer leaves the school, either to enter high school or for any other reasons, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school.
- School will be flexible with late attendance in exceptional circumstances (where this is a regular occurrence provision will be put into place, complying with the current policy.) **(REF Attendance Policy)**
- School will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent and appropriate support is sourced – Education Welfare Officer and School Counsellor & Deputy Safeguarding Lead/Learning Mentor.
- Cheshire Young Carers will supply lesson plans for PSHE and these will be reviewed on an annual basis. The lesson plans will help to reduce stigma, prevent bullying and will cover young carers issues resulting in a fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.
- The school will be supportive with regards to young carers and their issues.
- School will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- School appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- School will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- If needed school will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime, for young carers to call home.
- School will be flexible with homework deadlines.
- School will ensure that young carers have access to a homework club.
- Arrangements can be made for school work to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis) N.B This needs to be agreed with young carer and must have a set time limit.
- School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility. **(REF Equal Opportunities Policy)**

- School will provide alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or are housebound; this will include alternative communication options for parent's evenings.
- Appropriate provisions will be put into place for young carers whose parents do not drive due to their illness or disability. (Following Safe Guarding Procedures at all times.)
- School will always report any cases of a child/young person who may be carrying out an inappropriate caring role, which is causing immediate concern for their safety. **(REF- Safeguarding Policy)**
- School will work in partnership with Cheshire Young Carers to ensure that a high quality standard of support for young carers is achieved at all times.
- School will commit to accessing and providing training for staff about young carers and their issues. **(REF Safeguarding Policy)**

This policy will be reviewed annually by Cheshire Young Carers

Next Review- September 2019