



WESTON POINT
PRIMARY ACADEMY

STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

YOUNG CARERS POLICY 2023- 2024

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Academy Link: Mrs H Thompson

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1. Introduction

Weston Point Primary Academy is committed to supporting Young Carers to learn, enjoy and achieve. This Policy aims to ensure Young Carers at Weston Point Primary Academy are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

2. Definition

Young Carers are children and young people who are under 18 years old who provide regular and ongoing unpaid care to a family member who is physically disabled/unwell; experiencing poor mental health or misusing substances (drugs and alcohol); elderly/frail.

3. Caring Tasks

Young Carers may have whole or shared responsibility for looking after a sibling, parent, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a Young Carer may care for more than one family member and/or may have a disability his/herself.

Young Carers assume additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. They risk being identified by negative aspects of their behaviour/work. Some Young Carers worry about interference in their family life and may conceal their role from peers and school staff.

The caring tasks that a Young Carer may have to undertake include:

- **Nursing care**- administering medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility, etc.
- **Personal intimate care**- washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toileting requirements.
- **Emotional care**- being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer him/her up.
- **Domestic care**- undertaking a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry, etc.
- **Financial care**- sustaining the household, bill paying, benefit collection, etc.
- **Childcare**- taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

4. Possible effect on education

The staff at Weston Point Primary Academy acknowledge that there are Young Carers in school and that being a Young Carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's life. As a result of their responsibilities at home, a Young Carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Lack of concentration, anxiety, or worry or withdrawal.
- Emotional distress.
- Tiredness in school.
- Lack of time for homework which may be incomplete or there may be non-compliance.
- Poor attainment/underachievement.
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting.
- False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles.
- Behavioral problems including inappropriate responses resulting from anger or frustration.
- Lack of time for extra- curricular activities.
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home.
- Limited social skills.
- Bullying.
- Feelings that no one understands and that no support is available.
- Low self-esteem.

It also might be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about child being taken into care, fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called into question). They may be unable to attend parents' evenings.

5. Support

Weston Point Primary Academy acknowledges that Young Carers may need extra support to ensure that they have equal access to education. Through this Policy, we want to give the message that Young Carers' education is important.

Miss Wild is the Young Carer Strategic Lead supported by Mrs Poynton as Operational Lead. They are the main contacts for the Young Carers in school.

It is the Operational Lead's Role to meet with Young Carers on a regular basis and liaise with relevant colleagues and agencies with the consent of the Young Carer and parent.

Weston Point Primary Academy:

- Provides Young Carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and does not discuss the situation in front of their peers.
- Appreciates that Young Carers do not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role is acknowledged and respected.
- Treats Young Carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensures Young Carers can access all available support services in school.
- Follows child protection procedures regarding any Young Carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- Promotes discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.
- Provides staff access to information and training to enable them to recognise indications that a child has a caring responsibility.
- Liaises with support services to ensure that families can access additional help. Works collaboratively with Halton Carers Centre for the benefit of Young Carers and their families.
- Takes an active role in seeking to identify and provide assistance to hidden Young Carers.

In addition, Weston Point Primary Academy recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Access to a telephone during lunchtime to telephone home, if necessary.
- Negotiable deadlines for homework (when needed).
- Access to homework clubs (where these are available).
- Arrangements for schoolwork to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis).
- Any approved absence for a Young Carer will be time limited. (DFES, 2006)
- Access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound.

- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a Young Carer to school.

6. Further information

Further information can be found at:

<https://haltoncarers.co.uk/>

help@haltoncarers.co.uk