



Courage Hope Love & Friendship

Young Carers' Policy

Objectives of this policy:

At St. Nicholas Primary School, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

We acknowledge that there are likely to be Young Carers among our students, and that being a Young Carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education.

We have adopted this Young Carers' policy so that we will be able to relieve some of the worries which Young Carers may have about home and their school (academic and social), and show that we believe Young Carers' education is important.

Who are Young Carers?

Young Carers are children and young people whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. They are carrying out tasks and responsibilities, which are additional to those appropriate for their age. The person they look after may have one or more of the following:

- Physical disability
- Mental health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Long-term illness

The person they care for may be a parent, sibling, or grandparent and the care they give may be physical and/or emotional.

Young Carers' responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (e.g. bathing, dressing, feeding)
- Giving or prompting medication/injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Looking after younger siblings
- Budgeting and paying bills

Young Carers can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life is often restricted with few opportunities for fun and after-school activities.

Factors which may indicate that a young person is caring include:

- Illness or disability in the family
- Being late or absent (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and/or often tired
- Academic performance below potential
- Homework often uncompleted
- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- Not making use of out of school/college activities
- Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a safe environment
- Behaviour issues
- Limited contact with school/college by parents
- Being bullied

If we believe that someone is a young carer, we will be sensitive when we approach them about this as we appreciate they may not want their peers to know. Before passing this information on to relevant colleagues we will obtain the consent of the young carer.

Support offered

As a school, we will:

- Designate a member of staff with specific responsibilities for Young Carers. This person will usually be the SENDCo. We will make sure all students know who this is.
- Offer sessions on Young Carers in PSHE lessons in Key Stage 2
- Give information to the young person about Young Carers and what information and support is available
- Support events such as Young Carers' Day with assemblies and information where appropriate
- Liaise with appropriate agencies eg Wiltshire Young Carers / Youth Action Wiltshire.
- Consider alternatives and be flexible when responding to the needs of Young Carers. This may include (but is not limited to) access to a telephone at break times, negotiable deadlines for homework or opportunities to do homework at lunch times.

Staff at our school can access the support of;

- Wiltshire Council's Integrated Front Door Young Carers' Assessors who carry out assessments of young people who care for someone else. Anyone who thinks a child could be a young carer can refer the child into Wiltshire Council for a young carers' assessment.

Date of issue:	September 2024
Review Date	September 2026
To be reviewed	Headteacher and Governors
Authorised by	Headteacher