



Henley Green Primary School

Young Carers' Policy

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Statement

Henley Green is committed to supporting young carers' emotional, educational and personal development to enable them to aspire and achieve in education regardless of complexities of their personal needs and home circumstances.

This policy sets out how we will support Young Carers at school

Definition of a young carer

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with and providing regular significant personal, physical or emotional care support to another family member, assuming a level of responsibility which would usually be associated only with an adult.

A child or young person can be caring for any of the following reasons:

- Parent or sibling with mental health problems
- Parent or sibling with a learning or physical disability
- Parent or sibling with an entrenched alcohol or substance misuse problem
- Parent or sibling with a chronic or terminal illness

Young Carers and the effect on their education

Being a young carer can have a serious adverse effect on a child/young person's education. Because they struggle to balance their care responsibilities at home with expectations at school, a young carer is likely to regularly experience any one or more of the following:

- Being late or absent due to fulfilling care responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems in the classroom
- Emotional distress – anxiety, anger, fear, worry, self-doubt
- Mental and/or physical fatigue or tiredness
- Lack of time to complete coursework/homework on time or at all
- Academic underachievement relative to peers
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting or other physical care duties
- False signs of maturity linked to assuming adult roles and responsibilities
- Attitudinal/Behavioural problems e.g. isolation; challenging; disruptive; disengaged
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities at school or at home
- Aloof/Isolated - embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills and missing on 'normal' childhood/adolescent life experiences
- Bullying – victim or perpetrator
- Feeling that no one understands or cares about them and that no support is available
- Low self-esteem and a feeling of being incompetent (often unjustified)

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.

Support Offered

Henley Green Primary School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, Henley Green Primary School is giving the message that young carers' education is important.

The Young Carers Lead is Mrs Jo Rouse, who will liaise with relevant colleagues, Coventry Young Carers and other relevant agencies with the consent of the young carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated link.

- We will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers
- We appreciate that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable.
- The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- We will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- We will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school. We will refer to outside support agencies with the parents'/guardians permission
- We will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- We will promote 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.
- We will promote and share information about Young Carers this will be through assemblies, noticeboards, newsletters and school website.
- We will ensure that staff are aware of the issues related to Young Carers through CPD and induction training.

Henley Green Primary School 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 breaks and lunchtime, to phone home
- 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.

September 2024

Review Programme	Annually
Ratified by Governors	September 2025
Signed – Chair of Governors:	Chris Lockwood
Signed – Head Teacher	Rebecca Bond