J H Godwin Primary School

Young Carers' Policy

(Non-Statutory)

Review Cycle	3 years
Term	Summer 2025
Review date	Summer 2028
Signed	*L.Cartledge*

Intent Statement

JH Godwin Primary School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, the school is giving the message that young carers' education is important. *JH Godwin Primary School is proud to be working with Cheshire Young Carers to raise awareness and support for young carers in Cheshire West and Chester. Cheshire Young Carers is the commissioned service for Cheshire West and Chester to support young carers.*



At JH Godwin Primary School we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home. When a child looks after someone in their family with a history of long term physical or mental health illness, a disability, alcohol abuse or substance abuse the young person may need some extra support to help them get the most out of school. Our Young Carers' Policy says how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Aims

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students
- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate guidance and opportunities
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

Defining a Young Carer:

A Young Carer is under 18 years of age and helps to look after a family member whohas a disability, long term physical or mental health illness, or misuses substances. Caring can involve household chores, personal care, emotional support, communication support or looking after siblings and themselves. The level of responsibility assumed by a Young Carer is often inappropriate to their age and at a level beyond simply helping out with jobs at home which is a normal part of growing up. It is much better to start from a positive base so our enrolment process will seek to establish if:

- The pupil lives with a family member who has a disability or long-term physicalor mental health illness.
- The pupil has a responsibility for looking after that person over and beyondnormal inter-personal relationships within a caring family setting.
- The family is in contact with a support service that could help reduce theirreliance on the pupil.

Identifying a Young Carer:

Unless the school is advised about a pupil's home circumstances, Young Carers risk first being identified by negative aspects of their behaviour or work. Some Young Carers worry about bullying or interference in their family life and may seek to conceal their role from their peers and from teachers.
When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, he or she may need a little extra support to help him or her get the most out of school. Our Young Carers Policy says how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Some of the warning signs that might indicate that a pupil has unrecognised responsibilities are:

- Regular lateness or unauthorised absence, possibly increasing.
- Tiredness in school.
- Erratic response to homework with incomplete, late or non-compliance to set tasks.
- Lack of concentration, anxiety or worry.
- Under-achievement for potential capability.
- Behavioural problems, especially inappropriate responses possibly resulting from anger or frustration.
- Few or no peer friendships but possibly with a good relationship with adults and presenting as very mature for their age.
- Victim of bullying, perhaps linked to a family member's disability or state of Health e.g. substance misuse or due to Young Carer not being perceived by peers as dressing in the latest fashion.
- Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities, especially after school.
- Apparent parental disinterest due to non-attendance at parent's meetings.

All the warning signs mentioned may be indicators of a range of problems, some not associated with caring, however in dealing with any pupil exhibiting any of the signs staff should consider asking the pupil if they are helping to look after someone at home. Staff should also enquire from colleagues with pastoral responsibilities for the pupil. Education Welfare Officers and Education Social Workers, together with pastoral support staff, investigating pupils causing concern should also consider the possibility of caring roles, especially when working directly with family members.

Any concerns about a pupil who may be considered an as yet unidentified Young Carer should be reported to the member of staff with responsibility for Young Carers (the Young Carers Lead) as should new information about already identified Young Carers.

The Young Carers Lead is responsible for co-coordinating Young Carer support is the key person in school through which relevant matters need to be passed.

Some families will choose not to disclose this information. Any information gained as a result of this process will be held on the pupil's personal file, kept securely and made available in the first instance to the Young Carers Lead. We will respect the right to privacy and will only share information about Young Carers and their families with people who need to know in order to be able to help. Before sharing information.

School Support for Identified Young Carers

At J H Godwin school a member of staff will be the lead for Young Carers within the school. They will be the point of contact for Young Carers and their families and will liaise with the Young Carers' Service to provide the following:

- Additional support needs for Young Carers struggling to achieve their potential will be identified and provided where appropriate and in consultationwith Young Carers' Service.
- Alternatives for Young Carers unable to attend out of school activities due to their caring role will be considered.
- Liaise with support services to ensure that we can refer and signpostfamilies to additional help.
- Liaise with Cheshire Young Carers to ensure annual assessments to take place to make sure the right level of support is in place.
- Try to make alternative arrangements, if a parent is unable to travel to parent's sessions due to family circumstances, The YoungCarer or parent may request this.
- Provide advice about how young people can get into school wheretransport is a problem.
- Seek feedback and ideas from Young Carers and their families.
- Establish individual pupil support plans for those Young Carers with specific needs where appropriate.

- Allow Young Carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunch times so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member, should they need to.
- The Young Carers Lead keeps up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting Young Carers andtheir families.
- Complies with the Disability Discrimination Act, as outlined below, by offering disabled parents support to get their children into school.

Legislation and Guidance

This policy ensure we adhere to the following legislation and guidance:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles 28 and 29. Children and young people have the right to the best available education and to opportunities todevelop their personality, mental and physical ability to their fullest potential.
- The Children Act 1989.
- DCSF *Advice and guidance to Schools and Local Authorities on Managing Behaviour and Attendance: groups of pupils at particular risk* .