

02 Policy content guidance

The following suggested points should be considered when creating/revising your school's policy for young carers. Please adapt these accordingly.

Current Policy	✓
The school views young carers as any other pupil, but understands that they have the additional burden of caring responsibilities.	
The school will keep up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families.	
The whole school is committed to meeting the needs of young carers so that they are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers.	
A school lead will be assigned and will have special responsibility for young carers and their families. Pupils and families will be made aware of the identity of the schools lead.	
Training on young carer issues will be embedded in ongoing professional development for all staff.	
During the school enrolment process for new pupils, the school will identify whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → parent(s) or family members have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health problems. → the pupil helps to look after them and if this has an impact on their education. 	
Pupils who are young carers will be identified along with any additional needs they may have.	
The school will use and evaluate data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by young carers.	
The school will aim to offer support to improve attendance and pupil's well-being.	
The right to pupil's and families' privacy will be respected and the school will only share information with professionals and agencies on a "need to know basis" in order to support pupils and families.	
Information about support available for young carers and how to access it will be made clearly available to both pupils and families.	
The school recognises that young carers and their families need to receive coordinated support by the school, working in partnership where appropriate with general practitioners, young carers' services, behaviour and education support teams.	
Young carers will be referred or signposted to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate, including the local young carers' service.	

The school will refer or signpost families to other support services when appropriate.	
The school adheres to the <i>Disability Discrimination Acts (1995, 2005)</i> .	
The school is accessible to parents with disabilities and/or illness, offering additional support to enable them to attend parents' evenings or other school events. Home visits will be considered where appropriate.	
The school will offer additional support to remove any communication barriers with parents, so that parents are able to be fully engaged with the education of their child.	
The school will identify those young carers at risk of falling into the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) category and take appropriate actions to address this.	
The school will offer support to the young person and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school/college lead for young carers and their families.	
Relevant aspects of the curriculum, such as PSE and health and well being lessons, will be used to encourage a positive approaches from all teachers and staff working with young carers.	
The school will use the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of, and respect for, issues such as caring, disability and impairment, for example, embedding the challenges faced by young carers into PSE/health and wellbeing lessons.	
The school will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities, such as sports coaching or concerts, due to their caring role. The school will also consider lunch time detentions rather than after school ones.	
The school will allow young carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member.	
Other appropriate policies, such as a bullying policy, will take young carers into account.	

A model school statement for pupils and families

At [INSERT SCHOOL NAME] we are aware that pupils in our school may well have caring roles at home.

We believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities.

When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability, mental ill-health or substance misuse problem, they may need a little extra support to help them get the most out of school.

We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers. Our policy for young carers states how we will support any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

We aim to support young carers through a whole school approach and through working with other agencies and professionals, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the young carer.