Young Carers Policy

Unity
Trust
Courage
Curiosity
Respect
Kindness

A community for learning. Raising expectations. Fulfilling high standards.

Revised: **November 2026**

The policy is to be reviewed by: **November 2027**

Headteacher: **Mrs Gemma Hillier**

Young Carers Policy

Contents

1. Purpose & Scope
2. Identification & Support
3. Communication and Collaboration
4. Monitoring and Evaluation
5. Policy Review and Development
6. Safeguarding and Child Protection
7. Policy Availability

Young Carers Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

At Widmer End Community Combined School we wish for all our children to feel able to reach their maximum potential. This policy is to provide a supportive and understanding environment for students who are young carers. A young carer is defined as a child under the age of 18 years old by The Children and Families Act 2014; who provides care and support to a family member with a physical or mental illness, disability, neurodiversity or substance misuse issue. This policy aims to recognize the additional responsibilities these students bear and to ensure they receive the appropriate support to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

2. Identification and Support

2.1 Identification of Young Carers

- **Self-identification:** Pupils and parents are encouraged to inform the school if they believe the pupil is a young carer.
- **Staff Awareness:** Teachers and school staff will be trained to recognize signs that a student may be a young carer and will be proactive in offering support.
- **Confidentiality:** Information regarding a student's status as a young carer will be handled sensitively and confidentially.

2.2 Support for Young Carers

- A dedicated staff member, such as a Young Carers Coordinator, will be available to provide support and guidance. Our Young Carer Champion is Mrs Munn.
- Children will be invited to attend a Young Carers group session once a week where young carers can share experiences and strategies in a safe and supportive environment.
- All staff have received training and receive training annually to have the understanding and knowledge to be able to ascertain if a child or young person is a Young Carer and what additional support in lessons they may be able to provide.
- The Young Carer Champions will be able to signpost and support families with further information or services available to them.
- Flexible Homework and Attendance Policies: Consideration will be given to the time constraints and pressures young carers may face, with flexible deadlines and understanding of occasional absences.
- Young Carer Champions will be able to refer onwards to ELSA Teacher, Pastoral Lead and Attendance Officer any concerns they may have regarding a Young Carer's mental health and wellbeing.
- Access to additional academic support, including catch up and homework help during school hours.
- Provision of resources such as textbooks, worksheets and online learning tools for use at home if required.

- Encouragement and support to participate in extracurricular activities to ensure a well-rounded school experience.

3. Communication and Collaboration

- Meetings with parents or carers to discuss the student's progress and any additional support that may be needed or circumstances change
- Providing parents with information about available resources and support networks
- Partnership with local organisations and charities that support young carers to provide comprehensive support services
- A clear process for referring young carers to external services for additional help, such as respite care, financial aid, and healthcare services, when significantly affected
- Annual staff training within school to help identify Young Carers
- Assemblies and class led teaching surrounding Young Carers at least annually
- A noticeboard display informing where Young Carers is found and when and informing pupils who the Young Carer Champions are

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The progress and well-being of young carers will be regularly reviewed with the designated Young Carer Champions looking at:

- personal check-ins
- attendance reports
- Ad-hoc feedback received from pupils and families

5. Policy Review and Development

- The Young Carers policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and relevant, incorporating feedback from students, parents, and staff
- Commitment to improving the support available to Young Carers, based on best practices and evolving needs

6. Safeguarding and Child Protection

The school will adhere to its Child Protection Policy, ensuring that the needs of young carers are considered within this framework. Staff will be trained to recognise and respond to any safeguarding concerns that may arise

related to Young Carers.

7. Policy Availability

This policy will be readily accessible to all students, parents, and staff members through the school's website and main office. Regular updates and reminders will be provided to ensure the school community is aware of the support available to Young Carers.

This policy serves as a commitment to supporting Young Carers within the school community, ensuring that they have equal access to education and opportunities for personal development.