

Wymondham High Young Carers in Schools Policy

Approved by Governors November 2019

Definition of a young carer

'Young carers are children and young people under 18 years old who provide unpaid care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances.' (Carers Trust, 2014)

We are aware that this definition can be extended to close friends and neighbours as well.

Definition of a young adult carer

'Young adult carers are young people aged 14-25 who care, unpaid, for a friend or family member who could not cope without their support' (Carers Trust, 2014)

At **Wymondham High Academy** we are aware that some of our pupils may be caring for a family member at home and may require support to help them attend and enjoy school in the same way as other pupils to achieve their potential.

We have the following practices and strategies in place to support young carers in our school:

- There are designated Young Carers School Leads who help to support young carers and their families:
 - Ms Lauren Sparrow (Teacher of MFL and CPD Coordinator)
 - Mrs Georgia Thetford (Inclusion Team)
 - Mrs Lisa Ames (Child Protection Support Officer)
 - Ms Lindsey Dye (Child Protection Support Officer)
- The school has adopted a whole school approach to supporting young carers and their families, through form time activities, staff training and raising awareness of the group.
- Information will only be shared with professionals and agencies on a 'need to know' basis in order to support young carers and their families, and names of Young Carers will only be passed on to staff with permission from the Young Carer and their family.
- Partnership working with local young carers services (e.g. Norfolk Young Carers Forum) has been developed to embed ongoing training on young carers for our staff.
- Information and signposting is available for pupils, staff and families to access regarding the identification of young carers and how to self-identify
- Identification of young carers during the enrolment process is in place to allow the attendance team to monitor attendance and relevant staff members to

monitor attainment. Appropriate action will be taken to support young carers and their families where attendance and attainment drops below the expected level.

- Support for young carers and their family during the transition process is available and the sharing of agreed information with their new school/ college about their caring role is encouraged.
- The school will look to consider alternative arrangements if a young carer cannot attend after school activities. The school will also consider lunchtime detentions rather than after school detentions
- The school will allow young carers to use a phone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes to reduce the worry that they may have about a family member. This will take place at an agreed location (e.g. Inclusion office or wellbeing office) so as not to interfere with school policy, and so long as the privilege is not abused.
- Pupil premium funding will be used where possible to minimise any barriers to education and learning experienced by eligible young carers.
- An effective referral system and strong partnership with relevant external agencies is in place and with local young carers service.
- Opportunities for young carers to interact with each other, share experiences and access support. We have **weekly meetings/drop-in sessions on a Tuesday lunch time***, A Twitter page, an email address for people to ask questions or approach us for advice or support (youngcarers@wh-at.net – this is monitored by staff and all emails sent to this address go through an approval process), and a Teams group for the young carers to communicate with each other and locate shared information (also monitored by staff).

***Note January 2021: Unfortunately at the moment this is something which can not happen due to partial/full school closures and remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will review this provision for Academic Year 2021-22 as it will be dependent on the timetable and whether staggered break and lunch times/year group bubbles remain in place.**