



West Winch Primary School

Young Carers' Policy 2025

West Winch Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Introduction

West Winch Primary School is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers at West Winch Primary School are identified and offered the appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone at home. Most are caring for a parent, some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one family member. The person they look after will have one or more of:

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

Caring Tasks

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young carer has to deal with may include:

- Nursing care - giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility etc.
- Personal intimate care - washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements
- Emotional care - being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.
- Domestic care - doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc
- Financial care - running the household, bill paying, benefit collection etc
- Child care - taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities

At West Winch Primary School, we recognise that some of our children are young carers, but not all may need support at the same time. The Safeguarding Team keep an up-to-date record of all identified young carers in school. At West Winch Primary School, we recognise we may not be aware of all our young carers and staff are trained to identify children who fit the young carer profile. We monitor and review need in our Safeguarding Welfare Inclusion Team (SWIT) meetings

and talk to parents if we feel a referral to Caring Together would benefit the child and family. As a school, we work alongside Caring Together, a Young Carers' charity and meet the standards of their Young Carers Tick Award.

Possible Effect on Education

West Winch Primary School acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self-esteem

We appreciate that some families that have additional caring responsibilities may need additional support to engage in school life and form effective partnerships. For example, parents and carers may be unable to attend parents' evening, and may not be seen at drop off and pick ups.

School Response and support for Young Carers

As a School we will help and support young carers within our community in order to reduce the worries they may have regarding home and their schoolwork.

At West Winch Primary School, we will:

- Designate a member of staff to have special responsibility for young carers and attend relevant training
- Ensure all pupils are aware of who the designated staff for young carers are
- Look at the opportunities within the curriculum to raise awareness of issues facing young carers; through PSHE, assemblies and Building Relationship activities in the Early Years
- Be sensitive towards the needs of young carers; some pupils may not want their peers to know
- Give information to the young person about advice and support
- Ensure all information about our young carers is shared sensitively due to the confidential nature
- Pass information on to relevant colleagues e.g. Class teacher and Headteacher with due regard to confidentiality and child protection procedures
- Access to a phone during the school day if the young carer is anxious and needs to contact home
- Provide a Young Carers' club within school as a safe haven for children to relax and to share any concerns they may want to raise
- Liaise with appropriate agencies in the area
- Monitor attendance and lateness

- Seek out opportunities for Young Carers to attend out of school activities and holiday clubs in the area
- Provide alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound
- Communicate with parents using an alternative method if they are unable to attend Parent-Teacher meetings
- Negotiable deadlines for homework (when needed)

At West Winch Primary School, Ms J Hill is our champion for Young Carers and can be contacted directly via email: youngcarers@westwinch.norfolk.sch.uk .

Young Carers Policy Adopted: Spring 2025

Young Carers Policy Review: Spring 2027

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Heather Habbin - Chair of Governing Body