



Young Carer Policy

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1. Introduction

This Young Carers policy has been developed to recognise, promote, and support pupils and students. This policy is endorsed and fully supported by school Governors. At Hardenhuish, we believe that all young people have the right to an education regardless of what is happening at home. When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability, or substance misuse problem, they may need extra support to help to ensure they achieve their potential, and it is imperative that this is recognised and understood.

2. Definition

A young carer is a pupil or student who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem. At Hardenhuish we recognise that caring can also involve physical and emotional care or taking responsibility for someone's safety or well-being. The level of responsibility assumed by a young carer is often inappropriate to their age and at a level beyond simply helping with jobs at home, which is a normal part of growing up; as such it may impact on the education of the young person. A Young Adult Carer (YAC) is someone between the ages of 16-24 who is also covered by the same policy.

3. Identifying a young carer

Young carers can be identified through a variety of methods:

- transition information from primary school/previous setting
- directly by a pupil or student
- directly via a parent or other family member
- identified by a member of school staff
- through the local authority support service.

However, some pupils do not want to be identified as young carers or received additional support. Sometimes parents of young carers may not want their child to be identified as part of this group. In these circumstances, staff will be sensitive towards the pupils and their parents and ensure that appropriate support is offered or signposted.

Unless the school is advised about a pupil or student's home circumstances, a young carer may first be identified by negative aspects of their behaviour or work in school. Some young carers worry about appearing different to their peers or interference in their family life and may seek support to conceal their role from their peers and from teachers.

Some of the warning signs that a student may be in a young caring role are:

- Regular lateness and or unauthorised absence which could increase periodically.
- Tiredness during the school day.
- Lack of homework completed, or poor quality of work submitted.
- Lack of concentration and displaying anxiety and worry.
- Under achievement for potential capability.
- Behavioural problems
- Lack of interest in extracurricular activities including after school clubs.
- Apparent parental disinterest, delays in response, non-attendance to parent's evenings/information evenings.

- Poor hygiene, physical appearance.
- Being a victim of bullying.

4. Support offered

If we believe that a pupil or student is a young carer, we will be sensitive when we approach them about this, as we appreciate, they may not want their peers to know. At Hardenhuish we recognise that each Young Carer is an individual and therefore they require access to an array of support. At Hardenhuish we will:

- Have designated members of staff who are responsible for pupils and students identified as young carers.
- Offer support to identified pupils and students by making them aware of the designated staff member and by checking in with them and making their tutor and pastoral manager aware.
- Refer to Young Carers Wiltshire using the DART system.
- Raise the profile of young carers through assemblies, staff CPD, Young carers week.
- Offer a drop-in session for young carers with the designated member of staff.
- Liaise with the relevant Learning and Pastoral Managers so they can ensure subject teachers are aware and support with reasonable adjustments at times of need around deadlines for homework.
- Refer to in house support if needed, such as the school counsellor.
- Offer reasonable adjustment to accommodate parental liaison around progress and pastoral issues for example: online or telephone consultation for parents' evening events, parking arrangements when coming to the school.
- Be considerate that a pupil or student may need to communicate with home in times of stress or episodes of illness and allow them the opportunity to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes in a suitable space such medical or pastoral office.
- Provide additional support to young carers via a dedicated school webpage [Young Carers - Hardenhuish School](#) (insert link) as well as an email address youngcarers@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk for pupils to use as an alternative means to get in touch.