



Hardenhuish School

Young Carer Policy

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1. Aims

At Hardenhuish School, our aim is for all our pupils to be inspired to learn and supported to succeed and we believe that all young people have the right to an education regardless of what is happening at home. A Young Carer is someone under the age of 18 who helps care for a family member while also managing their education alongside these caring responsibilities. When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability, or substance misuse problem, they may need additional support to help to ensure they achieve their potential, and it is imperative that this is recognised. This Young Carers Policy has been developed to recognise Young Carers, highlight those responsible for Young Carers, and identify the ways we can support the specific needs of these pupils and students.

2. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy has been informed by the Department for Education (DfE) document statutory guidance on Keeping Children Safe in 2025.

3. Roles and responsibilities

There is a Young Carers Lead and a Young Carers Operational Lead who are responsible for supporting and promoting the educational achievement of Young Carers. You can make contact with them by emailing youngcarers@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk

4. 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.

5. 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
- indirectly via a member of school staff
- through the local authority support service.

However, some pupils do not want to be identified as a Young Carer or received additional support and in these circumstances, staff will be sensitive towards the pupils 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 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.
- Poor hygiene or physical appearance.
- Lack of concentration and displaying anxiety and worry.
- Under achievement for potential capability.
- Behavioural problems
- Lack of homework completed, or poor quality of work submitted.
- Lack of interest in extracurricular activities including after school clubs.
- Apparent parental disinterest, delays in response, non-attendance to parent's evenings and information evenings.

6. 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:

- Appoint a member of the Leadership Team supported by a member of the Safeguarding Team, with overall responsibility for pupils and students identified as a Young Carer.
- Offer support to identified pupils and students by making them aware of the designated staff member and making their tutor and pastoral manager aware.
- Refer to Young Carers Wiltshire by completing an Integrated Front Door referral.
- Offer a drop-in session for Young Carers with a designated member of staff and a Young Carers Club.
- 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 punctuality and deadlines for homework.
- Refer to internal 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 as the year team office.
- Provide additional support to young carers via a dedicated notice board and webpage as well as an email address youngcarers@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk for pupils to use as an alternative means to get in touch.

- Raise the profile of Young Carers through annual assemblies, tutor time activities, and by celebrating Young Carers Week.
- Complete CPD for new and existing members of staff annually.
- Complete annual student voice with Young Carers to evaluate our Young Carers Policy and provision, to identify any gaps.

7. Links to other policies

- Equality Information and Objectives Policy.
- Attendance Policy.
- Homework Policy.
- Positive Behaviour Policy (including Anti-Bullying).