Policy for the provision of Young Carers

2025-2026

Reviewed: October 2026

Next Review: October 2027

Mission Statement:

All things are possible with faith, understanding and forgiveness; everyone can flourish together.

At St Anne's School we want our children to be independent and resilient, but to know that, when things seem overwhelming, there is always a guiding hand available from everyone in our school community. "When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you" (Footprints in the Sand)

Vision:

We aim to create successful citizens of the future who have a growth mind set and are resilient and prepared for their journey through the ever-changing world in which we live.

We aim to do this by:

- Teaching the importance of being compassionate and respectful to others and role modelling the Christian Values, whilst at the same time respecting and recognising the value and importance of other faiths and lifestyles.
- Providing a rich and creative curriculum that inspires a passion for learning and promotes excellence.
- Collaborating and supporting others to achieve their very best; encompassing our school, our homes, our parish, and the wider community.
- Providing a nurturing and safe environment where children can be healthy and happy both physically and emotionally.
- Facilitating investigative learning opportunities through the development of the effective characteristics of learning.
- Promoting philosophical enquiry to stretch and develop analytical thinking and questioning; creating independent and creative thinkers who are resilient and prepared for all life has to offer.

Golden Values:

Community Faith Forgiveness Perseverance Respect

Moral of this story: *You're never ever alone, especially during your most trying times. God is always with you. Even if you can't be your own best friend yet, make sure to acknowledge the fact that God is your best friend always!*

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Statement of intent

St Anne's CE Lydgate Primary School is committed to supporting young carers' access to a full education. This policy should be implemented by all staff members to ensure young carers at our school are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

The aim of this policy document is to raise awareness among school staff about the needs of young carers and to support them in establishing a whole school approach to address the issues that may arise within a school setting.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation and guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 2004
- Education Act 2011
- Equality Act 2010
- Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004
- Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000
- Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Care Act 2014
- The Young Carers (Needs Assessments) Regulations 2015
- DfE (2010) 'Improving support for young carers – family focused approaches'
- DfE (2016) 'The lives of young carers in England'

2. Definition

2.1. A young carer is under 18 years of age who provides regular and ongoing care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled, or misuses substances.

2.2. A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development.

2.3. Young carers may be primary carers, such as caring for a parent, or a secondary carer, such as helping to care for a sibling.

2.4. A young carer becomes vulnerable when the level of caregiving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive or inappropriate for that child and risks jeopardising their emotional or physical wellbeing, educational achievement and life chances.

2.5. A young carer may undertake some or all the following:

- Practical tasks
- Physical care
- Personal and intimate care
- Emotional support
- Household management
- Looking after siblings
- Interpretation
- Administering medication

3. Issues faced by young carers

3.1. Caring responsibilities can impact on young people's education in several different ways including, but not limited to, the following:

- Lateness
- Tiredness
- Non-attendance
- Late or no submission of homework and assignments
- Not participating in extracurricular activities and school events
- Experiencing bullying or isolation
- Underachieving academically
- Poor education/career choices

3.2. Young carers may exhibit challenging behaviour in environments away from home to offset the fact that they have to take on adult responsibilities and behave in an adult fashion within the home.

3.3. Many young carers may be unable to develop friendships outside of school, due to reasons such as being unable to invite friends to their home, restricting the development of a pupil's social skills.

3.4. Some young carers carry out tasks for which they are physically ill equipped, which can impact on their overall health. Long term caring responsibilities can also impact significantly on the mental health of young people, which like their physical health, can lead to poor attendance.

3.5. Some families will be dependent solely on state benefits, affecting their ability to afford proper school clothing and/or extracurricular activities, such as school trips.

3.6. Families involving a young carer may be unwilling or unable to attend school functions, leading to them becoming more isolated from the school environment and unaware of issues that the young carer may be experiencing

4. Identifying young carers

4.1. During the school enrolment process for new pupils, the school will:

- Identify parents or family members who have disabilities or other long-term physical/mental health conditions.
- Clarify whether the pupil has caring responsibilities.
- Identify whether the young carer has any additional needs that need to be supported.
- Establish individual pupil plans to recognise the child's specific needs as a young carer.

4.2. Where appropriate, a young carer may be referred to the LA or other support agencies for a needs assessment.

4.3. St Anne's CE Lydgate Primary School will continuously bear in mind that where a parent has a disability, mental health or substance abuse issue, the pupil might be the carer whilst showing none of the indicative signs of a young carer.

5. Young carers and the school

5.1. The Safeguarding lead, Mr Learmont is the main point of contact for young carers in the school. This appointed person is responsible for:

- Ensuring that young carers have the same access to a full education and career choices as their peers.
- Promoting and coordinating the support young carers need.
- Liaising with other agencies as appropriate, including adult services.

5.2. It is important that staff members can effectively identify young carers and that young carers feel that they can ask for help; therefore, raising awareness among staff and pupils about the issues relating to young carers and what support is available is vital.

5.3. To ensure that staff members understand the issues faced by young carers, training and ongoing professional development about the matter is provided for staff and the governing body.

5.4. Staff members will keep up to date with national and local developments, legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families.

5.5. St Anne's CE Lydgate Primary School aims to create a welcoming and friendly environment for all pupils, in which young carers feel comfortable to discuss their situation.

5.6. The school will publish clear information regarding how pupils and their families can access support, ensuring that all pupils are aware of this information.

5.7. The local governing body will make provision for inclusive policies and practices that support young carers and promote good communication with their families.

5.8. The curriculum, primarily PSHE lessons, will be used to promote a full understanding, acceptance of, and respect for, issues such as the work of young carers.

5.9. The school premises are accessible to people with disabilities and/or illnesses, offering additional support to enable them to attend parents' evenings and other school events.

5.10. Staff members will not discuss a young carer's personal situation and related arrangements in front of their peers.

5.11. The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any pupil who they believe to be at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

6. Providing support

6.1. The Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy) will meet with young carers on a regular basis and will liaise with teachers regarding difficulties, attendance and deadlines.

6.2. The Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy) will ensure that existing individual pupil plans recognise the pupil's specific needs as a young carer.

6.3. St Anne's CE Lydgate Primary School offers support to the pupil and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school, college or university where appropriate.

6.4. Additional support is offered to remove any communication barriers with parents, allowing them to be fully engaged with the education of their child.

6.5. Targeted early interventions are used to provide support to young carers, ensuring that they can reach their full potential.

6.6. The school uses and evaluates data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by young carers, and reviews plans accordingly.

6.7. Young carers are provided with access to a telephone during breaks and lunches, allowing them to call home with the intention of reducing any worry they may have about a family member.

6.8. Where appropriate, homework and assignment deadlines for young carers will be negotiated.

6.9. Where appropriate, the school will schedule around young carers' duties, such as setting lunchtime detentions instead of after-school detentions.

6.10. Where parents are unable to physically attend parents' evening due to their disability, medical condition or substance abuse, home visits will be considered where necessary.

6.11. Young carers are provided with opportunities to speak to someone in private regarding their role as a young carer.

6.12. Staff members treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.

6.13. The school will continuously promote additional links with adult care agencies which may be able to support families and relieve care responsibilities.

6.14. [Primary schools only] St Anne's CE Lydgate Primary School will discuss and provide advice to parents regarding transport arrangements for those who find it difficult to escort their young children to school.

7. Monitoring and review

7.1. The Headteacher and the Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy) will continually monitor and review practice to ensure this policy is implemented correctly.

7.2. Staff will all be aware of other relevant school policies which will be implemented alongside this policy.

7.3. This policy will be reviewed by the Local Advisory Board on an annual basis.