



Young Carers Policy

<i>School Name</i>	Claygate Primary School
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<i>Young Carers Leads</i>	Hilary Ali Steph Evans
<i>Link Governor</i>	Nez Zein (Safeguarding Governor)
<i>Status</i>	Non-Statutory

Young Carers Policy

1. Policy Statement

At Claygate Primary School we are committed to supporting all pupils to achieve their full potential. We recognise that some children and young people may have caring responsibilities at home and that these responsibilities can affect their education, wellbeing, attendance, achievement and social development.

We are committed to identifying, supporting and valuing young carers within our school community. We aim to ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged because of their caring role and that they receive appropriate support to help them thrive both academically and emotionally.

2. Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 who helps to care for a family member who has:

- A disability
- A long-term illness
- A mental health condition
- A substance misuse issue
- Additional support needs associated with ageing or vulnerability

Caring responsibilities may include:

- Practical household tasks
- Looking after siblings
- Providing emotional support
- Translating or interpreting
- Assisting with personal care
- Managing medication or appointments

3. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Identify young carers as early as possible.
- Ensure young carers are listened to and supported.
- Reduce barriers to education, attendance and participation.
- Promote the wellbeing and resilience of young carers.
- Work in partnership with families and external agencies.
- Raise awareness of young carers among staff and pupils.
- Ensure young carers are not subjected to discrimination or disadvantage.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Promote a whole-school approach to supporting young carers.
- Ensure staff understand their responsibilities.
- Allocate appropriate resources to support identified pupils.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL will:

- Act as the Young Carers Lead alongside our ELSA Team
- Maintain oversight of identified young carers.
- Coordinate support plans where necessary.
- Liaise with external agencies and support services.
- Ensure safeguarding concerns are managed in line with school procedures.

All Staff

All staff will:

- Be aware of the signs that a pupil may have caring responsibilities.
- Treat information sensitively and confidentially.
- Refer concerns to the DSL or Young Carers Lead.
- Support pupils to access help when needed.

Governors

Governors will:

- Monitor the effectiveness of this policy.
- Ensure the school meets its statutory safeguarding responsibilities.
- Promote equality of opportunity for young carers.

5. Identification of Young Carers

Young carers may be identified through:

- Self-referral by pupils
- Parent/carer disclosure
- Staff observations
- Attendance or punctuality concerns
- Changes in behaviour or wellbeing
- Information from external agencies

Claygate Primary School will approach identification sensitively and will avoid making assumptions about family circumstances.

6. Support Available

The school may provide support through:

- A named member of staff for regular check-ins
- Emotional wellbeing support
- Access to pastoral support services for example ELSA, counselling, MFIT Club for KS2
- Flexible arrangements for homework where appropriate
- Additional support following absences
- Opportunities to attend clubs, trips and enrichment activities
- Quiet spaces during breaktimes or before school
- Support during periods of family crisis
- Half-Termly attendance at Cosy Club: our CPS Club for Young Carers (facilitated and run by our ELSA, Mrs Evans)

Support will be tailored to individual needs and agreed in consultation with the pupil and family wherever appropriate.

7. Attendance and Learning

The school recognises that caring responsibilities may occasionally affect attendance, punctuality or completion of schoolwork.

Where appropriate, the school will:

- Explore the reasons for difficulties with the pupil and family.
- Provide reasonable adjustments and support.
- Ensure young carers are not unfairly penalised.
- Help pupils catch up on missed learning.

All attendance concerns will be considered alongside the school's safeguarding and attendance procedures.

8. Safeguarding

The welfare of the child is paramount.

Where a pupil's caring role appears excessive, inappropriate for their age, or is impacting significantly on their wellbeing, education or safety, staff will follow safeguarding procedures and inform the DSL.

Any safeguarding concerns will be managed in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

9. Confidentiality

Information relating to a pupil's caring responsibilities will be treated sensitively and shared only on a need-to-know basis in accordance with data protection requirements and safeguarding responsibilities.

The wishes of the pupil will be considered wherever possible, while recognising the school's duty to safeguard children.

10. Working with Families and External Agencies

The school will work collaboratively with:

- Parents and carers
- Health professionals
- Social care services
- Local authority young carers services
- Relevant voluntary organisations such as Action for Carers

The school will seek consent before making referrals where appropriate, unless safeguarding concerns require otherwise.

11. Raising Awareness

The school will:

- Promote awareness of young carers among staff and pupils.
- Include young carers within wellbeing and inclusion initiatives such as 'Cosy Club'
- Challenge stigma associated with illness, disability and caring responsibilities.
- Signpost families to available support services.

12. Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equality and Inclusion Policy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy