



Young Carers
Harlyn Primary
School
2024 – 2025



This policy aims to ensure Young Carers at Harlyn Primary and Nursery School are identified and offered appropriate support to access the curriculum to which they are entitled. Harlyn Primary and Nursery School acknowledges that Young Carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, the school is giving the message that Young Carers' education is important and that as a school we are committed to supporting Young Carers.



Introducing Young Carers

Young Carers are people under the age of sixteen whose caring role may involve them taking on a level of responsibility that is inappropriate for their age or development. The Young Carers team works with children as young as five years old and they have developed a range of support services which help these young people to have a typical childhood. Often school offers an enjoyable, daily routine in a familiar place surrounded by supporting adults and we will strive to offer the emotional and academic support our Young Carers.

In some instances, a Young Carer may care for more than one person.

The person(s) they look after will have one or more of:

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

A Young Carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member.



AIMS

- ❖ To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for Young Carers.
- ❖ To address any underlying inequalities between Young Carers and other children.
- ❖ To raise awareness of Young Carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all Young Carers as early as possible on entry to the school and this support continues into further education. To ensure that all new staff understand about Young Carers and their role in supporting them.
- ❖ To ensure that Young Carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible.
- ❖ To foster respect and understanding towards Young Carers among all children.
- ❖ To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- ❖ To ensure that Young Carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
- ❖ To ensure that Young Carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities
- ❖ The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.



STRATEGIES

- ❖ To ensure that all Young Carers are recognised and registered as Young Carers with the support of their Parent/Carer.
- ❖ To appoint a Young Carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision.
- ❖ To deliver annual staff training with regards to understanding which children can be identified as Young Carers and how to support our children that are Young Carers. All new staff will have Young Carer training as part of their induction training.
- ❖ To ensure that the Young Carers are known to the relevant Class Teachers and support staff as appropriate.
- ❖ To appoint a member of staff to lead on Young Carer provision who will be responsible for maintaining a Young Carer support group and corresponding with external agencies as appropriate.
- ❖ To consistently ensure that there is a whole school awareness of Young Carers through PSHE lessons and assemblies.
- ❖ To monitor the progress of Young Carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary.
- ❖ To monitor the attendance of Young Carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary.
- ❖ To make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case-by-case basis regarding issues such as lateness to school, late homework and poor attendance.



- ❖ To ensure that Young Carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary.
- ❖ To offer Young Carers extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection for young carers.
- ❖ The importance of pupil voice: - to ensure that Young Carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the school provision for young carers.
- ❖ To maintain and regularly review our Young Carer's policy. This will be reviewed annually
- ❖ To ensure the designated professional for Young Carers will liaise with relevant colleagues and other relevant agencies regarding their caring responsibilities, with the consent of the Young Carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated professional.
- ❖ To add the pupil to the vulnerable pupils' audit and ensure they receive support where appropriate.
- ❖ The school will provide Young Carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and staff will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- ❖ The school appreciates that Young Carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- ❖ The school will treat Young Carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.

- ❖ The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- ❖ The school will ensure that all information related to a Young Carer is appropriately handed over as part of transition to a new school or as part of a phase transfer.

Young Carers Lead

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To be updated annually.

Useful websites for further information

<http://www.carerstrusthillingdon.org/>

<https://youngcarersinschools.com/>