

The Active Learning Trust

NEALE-WADE ACADEMY

Young Carers in Schools

Definition of a young carer

'Young carers are children and young people under 18 years old who provide unpaid care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances.' (Carers Trust, 2014)

Definition of a young adult carer

'Young adult carers are young people aged 14-25 who care, unpaid, for a friend or family member who could not cope without their support' (Carers Trust, 2014)

At Neale-Wade Academy we are aware that some of our pupils may be caring for family member at home and may require support to help them attend and enjoy school in the same way as other pupils to achieve their potential.

We have the following practices and strategies in place to support young carers in our school:

- There is a designated Young Carers School Lead with responsibility for young carers and their families
 - The Young Carer's Operational Lead is: Mrs L Butler
 - The Young Carer's Senior Leadership Team Lead is: Mr J Crawley
 - The Young Carer's Governor Lead is: Mrs A Carlin
- The school has adopted a whole school approach to supporting young carers and their families, and information will only be shared with professionals and agencies on a 'need to know' basis in order to support young carers and their families.
- Partnership working with local young carers services has been developed to embed ongoing training on young carers for our staff and Governors.
- Information and signposting is available for pupils, staff and families to access regarding the identification of young carers and how to self-identify.
- Identification of young carers during the enrolment process is in place to actively monitor attendance and attainment and appropriate action will be taken to support young carers and their families where attendance and attainment drops below the expected level.

- Support for young carers and their family during the transition process is available to share agreed information with their new school/ college about their caring role.
- The school will look to consider alternative arrangements if a young carer cannot attend after school activities. The school will also consider lunchtime detentions rather than after school detentions.
- The school will allow young carers to use a phone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes to reduce the worry that they may have about a family member.
- Pupil premium funding will be used where possible to minimise any barriers to education and learning experienced by eligible young carers.
- An effective referral system and strong partnership with relevant external agencies is in place and with the school nurse and local young carers service.
- Policy to be reviewed annually.

Date of next review: March 2023