

Shavington Primary School



Young Carers Policy

Reviewed: September 2025

To be Reviewed: September 2028

Introduction

At Shavington Primary School we are committed to recognising and supporting Young Carers, to ensure they are given the opportunities to achieve and reach their full potential. This policy outlines our approach to supporting young carers at Shavington Primary School.

Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is a child under 18 years of age who provides regular and ongoing care and emotional support to a family member in the home who may have a physical disability, a mental health issue, or may be suffering from substance misuse. The caring responsibilities undertaken by young carers may include:

- Practical tasks such as cooking, housework and shopping
- Physical care such as helping someone out of bed
- Personal care such as helping with washing, dressing or toileting
- Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions
- Administering medication
- Looking after younger siblings
- Emotional support
- Interpreting for a family member with hearing or language difficulties

Aims

At Shavington Primary School, we aim to:

- Create a safe, welcoming environment where young carers feel comfortable to talk about their caring role
- Identify young carers at the earliest opportunity to offer appropriate support
- Support young carers to participate fully in education and have equal access to opportunities
- Promote awareness and understanding about young carers among all staff, governors, pupils, and the wider school community
- Work in partnership with Cheshire Young Carers and other support agencies to provide coordinated support
- Provide young carers with strategies to protect their emotional and physical wellbeing
- Celebrate the skills and contributions that young carers make within their families and our school community.

Identifying a Young Carer

We recognise that young carers may not come forward for support for various reasons including:

- Fear of stigma or bullying
- Not recognising themselves as a young carer
- Fear of interference from agencies
- Not wanting to appear different from their peers
- Wanting to keep their family situation private

To help identify young carers, we will:

- Ensure all families are made aware of our young carers policy
- Include young carer status in our admissions process
- Provide regular awareness training for all staff
- Discuss the needs of young carers during transition meetings between schools
- Use assemblies and PSHE lessons to raise awareness of young carers
- Display information about young carers and available support in accessible locations

The role of the Designated Young Carers Lead

- Be the named staff member with lead responsibility for young carers
- Maintain a register of young carers and ensure sensitive information is shared appropriately
- Act as the main point of contact for young carers, families, and professionals
- Liaise with Cheshire Young Carers and other support agencies
- Ensure young carers have access to support both in and out of school
- Monitor the effectiveness of support provided for young carers
- Report to governors on the provision for young carers

The role of teachers

- Be aware of signs that a child might be a young carer
- Be sensitive to the needs of young carers
- Report any concerns about potential young carers to the Designated Young Carers Lead
- Maintain confidentiality about a child's caring role where appropriate
- Ensure young carers have access to extended services and extra-curricular activities

Support Offered in School

In school can support young carers and their families in the following ways:

- Access to a designated staff member for support
- Flexibility with punctuality, attendance, and homework when caring responsibilities impact school
- Access to a telephone to contact home during breaks and lunchtimes
- Adjustments to uniform policy if required
- Access to additional learning support if needed
- Lunchtime drop-in sessions
- Peer support groups
- Support with applications for free school meals and uniform grants where applicable
- Support with school trips and activities to ensure participation

Useful Contacts

Cheshire Young Carers: <https://www.cheshireyoungcarers.org/>

Carers Trust: <https://carers.org/>

School Designated Young Carers Lead: Abi Le’Gallienne – Pastoral Lead