

Davenham Church of England Primary School

“Working Together, Playing Together, Serving God and Serving Others”
“...encourage one another and build each other up...”
1 Thessalonians 5:11.

POLICY FOR YOUNG CARERS

Introduction

This Young Carers Policy has been written by young carers/expert staff from Cheshire Young Carers and Davenham C of E Primary School.

Commitment

Davenham School’s commitment to young carers is to support the emotional and academic needs of young carers to achieve their potential in their education and to aspire in education as people regardless of complexities of needs and home.

This policy explains how we will live up to our commitment

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with or carrying out a significant physical or emotional caring role and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be undertaken by an adult.

They can be caring for any of the following-

- Parent or sibling suffering from mental health issues;
- Parent or sibling with a physical disability;
- Parent or sibling with entrenched substance misuse problems;
- Parent or sibling with learning disabilities;
- Parent or sibling with a chronic or terminal illness.

Young Carers and the effects on their education

Being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person’s education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home;
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school;
- Emotional distress;

- Tiredness in school;
- Lack of time for homework;
- Poor attainment;
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting;
- False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles;
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger and frustration);
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities;
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home;
- Limited social skills;
- Bullying;
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available;
- Low self-esteem.

Quotes from young carers

“I worry about my dad all day when I am at school and find it hard to concentrate”
Tom age 10

“I need someone to talk to at school about my home life”
Jenny age 9

“I feel worried about my mum when I am at school; I feel upset and can’t tell my friends”
Amy age 8

Support offered

Davenham School ensures that the following support is available for all young carers within our school. Davenham School has an identified young carers representative, our Head Teacher Mrs Hyslop.

- All staff are made aware of who their young carers representatives are and the reporting/referral process to these persons.
- Any child/young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at the school will be referred to the appropriate services.
- When a young carer leaves the school, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school, subject to consent from the young carer and his/her family.
- Davenham School will be flexible with late attendance due to a young carer’s caring role (where this is a regular occurrence provision will be put into place, complying with all current policy).
- We will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent and appropriate support is sourced.

- (Where applicable and if required) Cheshire Young Carers will supply lesson plans for PSHE and these will be reviewed on an annual basis. The lesson plans will help to reduce stigma, prevent bullying and will cover young carers issues resulting in a fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.
- Davenham School will at all times be flexible with regards to young carers and their issues upholding confidentiality.
- School acknowledges that young carers will not be obliged to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- We will ensure young carers can access all available support services at school.
- Davenham School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- School will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime, for young carers to call home.
- We will be negotiable with deadlines for homework (when needed).
- Arrangements will be made for school or home work to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis) N.B This needs to be agreed with young carer and must have a set time limit.
- School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility.
- We will provide alternative communication options for parents of young carers who are sensory impaired or are housebound; this will include alternative communication options for parents' evenings.
- Appropriate provisions will be put into place for young carers whose parents do not drive due to illness or disability (following safe guarding procedures at all times)
- Davenham School will always report any cases of a child/young person who may be carrying out an inappropriate caring role, which is causing immediate concern for their safety, in line with our safeguarding policy.
- School will work in partnership with Cheshire Young Carers to ensure that a high quality standard of support for young carers is achieved at all times.
- We will commit to accessing and providing training for staff about young carers and their issues.

Outcome

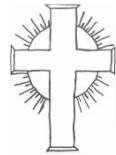
Davenham School will seek to ensure that young carers receive support for their emotional and academic needs with respect to their education regardless of complexities of needs and home.

Young carers and their families will be treated with respect and sensitivity, and offered appropriate flexibility and access.

Staff will be aware of the resources, support and responsibilities with respect to young carers, and will be trained accordingly.

EQUALITY STATEMENT

Davenham Primary School is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all children, staff, parents, carers and visitors irrespective of their race, gender, gender identity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital status, age or pregnancy and maternity. We tackle discrimination through the positive promotion of equality, by valuing diversity, challenging bullying and stereotypes and by creating an inclusive environment which champions fairness and respect for all.



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Effective Date		11 December 2023	
Review		December 2026	
Person Responsible		Joanne Hyslop	
Signed Headteacher	Signed Chair of Governors	of	Date Ratified
J Hyslop	M Mewies		22 January 2018