

Young Carers Policy

(in conjunction with the Peninsula Multi Academy Trust)

Document owner	AHT Behaviour and Attitudes
Committee	Curriculum
Frequency of review	Every 3 years
Date of last review	September 2027 (new)
Date approved by Governors	26.09.2024
Date of next review	Autumn 2027

1. Aims

Weatherhead High School is committed to supporting young carers to access education. The school aims to:

- Identify young carers
- Support young carers to access education, including enrichment activities
- Minimise the disadvantages that young carers face
- Have due regard to the impact of young carers' responsibilities when considering the application of sanctions upon them
- Work with external agencies to help identify the needs of individuals who have caring responsibilities with the aim of increasing the support available to them and to their families

2. Designated Professionals for Young Carers

The school's designated professionals for young carers are Mrs Pierce (Assistant Headteacher, Behaviour & Attitudes) and Mrs Slater (CLA Senior Administration Officer).

3. Definition

A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone. Many young carers are of primary school age. Most are caring for a parent, commonly in a single parent family, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative who lives at home or elsewhere. In many instances, a young carer may care for more than one family member. Some young carers provide care for friends who live outside of the family home.

The person they look after will have one or more of the following:

- a) physical disability (including sensory disability)
- b) learning disability
- c) mental health problem
- d) chronic illness
- e) substance misuse problem

4. The Life of a Young Carer

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member.

The caring tasks that a young carer carries out will vary from student to student but may include:

- a) nursing care: administering medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility
- b) personal intimate care: washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements
- c) emotional care: being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up
- d) domestic care: doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry
- e) financial care: running the household, bill paying, benefit collection
- f) childcare: taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities

5. Potential Impact on Education

Weatherhead High School acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its students, and that being a young carer can present an individual with additional challenges with regard to:

- a) achieving good attendance and getting to school on time
- b) concentrating in lessons
- c) managing anxiety, emotional distress and low self-esteem
- d) getting sufficient rest at home
- e) managing time for homework and extracurricular activities
- f) physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- g) displaying false signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles
- h) socialising with their peers due to additional responsibilities at home

6. Support for Young Carers at Weatherhead High School

Weatherhead High School:

- Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new students know who they are and what they can do to help
- Liaises with external agencies to strengthen support for young people and their families
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and will strive to ensure that all parents feel that they can be involved with events in school such as parents' evenings
- Respects rights to privacy and will only share information about young carers and their families with people who need to know in order to provide help
- Will explore alternatives and adaptations if students are unable to attend events outside of school time, including but not limited to detentions, sports coaching, trips etc
- Allow young carers to use office phones to make contact with home at break and lunch time

7. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Assistant Headteacher, Behaviour & Attitudes. At every review, it will be approved by the full Governing Body. The Governing Body will monitor the implementation of this policy through information provided by the Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher, Behaviour & Attitudes.

8. Links with other Policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy
- Suspensions & Exclusions Policy