

**KETTLESHULME ST JAMES
CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**YOUNG CARER
POLICY**

AUTUMN 2024

Review Date – Autumn 2027

Non-Statutory Policy

Introduction

Kettleshulme St James CE Primary 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.

Aims

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students
- 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
- 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 students
- 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 create a young carer, register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff
- If appropriate, to appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision
- 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
- To support young carers in getting to and from the school where necessary
- To ensure that young carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the school provision for young carers
- To add the pupil to the vulnerable pupils' list and ensure they receive access to HAF (holiday and food funding) 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 ensure young carers can access all available support services in school
- The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):
 - a) access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime to phone home
 - b) negotiable deadlines for homework (when needed)
 - c) identifying support for them and their family to enable them to attend school trips and educational activities
 - d) access for parents with impaired mobility
 - e) alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound
 - f) advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school
 - g) access to school for wider support i.e. food bank

What we expect from Young Carers	What Young Carers can expect from us
To take part as fully as possible in lessons and opportunities offered in school.	Deliver staff training on the topic as regularly as is necessary to keep staff informed about procedures. Make staff aware, with permission from the Young carer and their family, when circumstances are likely to interfere with lessons and/or homework.
Tell us in advance of deadlines if there are issues completing homework.	Allow agreed-upon extensions for homework tasks where possible.
Make us aware of any changes to your caring role.	Allow use of Young Carers card when necessary to exit lessons for a few minutes. If necessary, meet with Young Carer (and parents/guardians) to discuss further support.
Let us know if you need more support.	We can provide contact details and information about local Young Carers groups via students and staff contacts.

At Kettlethulme St James CE Primary School we believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their situation at home. When a young person has a caring responsibility they may need extra support to help them get the most out of school. We define a Young Carer as a young person who has caring responsibilities for a family member with a disability, health condition or substance misuse issue. Young carers may provide physical care, personal care, help with medication or practical tasks, or provide emotional support. This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home.

Our School:

- Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers, and informs all new students who the member of staff is and what they can do to help. They are known as the Young carers lead.
- Will provide training and information to staff members on how to identify young carers and signpost them to the relevant support.
- Will proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face as well as the support that is available (for example during form/tutor time, assemblies, PSHE sessions)

- Will provide a safe and confidential space for peer support groups, over seen by a member of staff, allowing young carers in the school to provide emotional support to each other regarding their caring role.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend extra curricular activities due to their caring role.
- Will seek to provide alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend school because of their caring commitment.
- Will allow young carers access to a phone if needed, to contact home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Is physically accessible and has accessible information available to parents who have mobility or communication difficulties.
- Will not make assumptions about family members with disabilities, mental and physical health conditions or substance misuse issues, or label young people and their families.
- Respects the young person's right to privacy and only shares information on them and their family with people who need to know. Their home situation and caring role will not be discussed in front of their peers.
- Treats young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality. The young person's caring role is acknowledged and respected.
- Includes young carers in any existing transition package so that relevant support is highlighted to the young person.