



Alsager School

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

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Presented for approval
at the Resources Committee Meeting
on April 2nd 2025
and subsequently approved and adopted on the same date.

Chair of Resources Committee:
Mr D Edwards

Signature:

Date: 02/04/2025

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1. COMMITMENT

Alsager School's commitment to young carers is to support the emotional and academic needs of young carers to achieve in their education and to aspire in education as people regardless of complexities of needs and home. We are learning with, from and for others in our work and this policy explains how we will live up to our commitment. We will contact Cheshire East Carers Hub via their website: [Supporting carers for over 40 years - Cheshire East Carers Hub](#) or via the Livewell website: [Cheshire East Carers Hub \(All Age Carers Hub\) | CheshireEast MarketPlace](#) when parents/carers give permission for an assessment to be carried out to support their child's respite. Children do not need to be accessing support from the local authority for this to be put in place. We will contact Rob Pearce (Designated Safeguarding Lead) when we need support for children who are being supported by Extra Help or Targeted Help level or above.

An alternative route for support is through Cheshire Young Carers who are found at [Cheshire Young Carers, Northern Lights Business Park, Rossfield Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 3AW, 0151 356 3176, www.cheshireyoungcarers.org. info@cheshireyoungcarers.com](#)

2. 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 taken by an adult. They can be caring for any of the following:

- Grandparent, parent or sibling suffering from a mental illness
- Grandparent, parent or sibling suffering from a physical disability
- Grandparent, parent or sibling with substance misuse problems
- Grandparent, parent or sibling with learning disabilities
- Grandparent, parent or sibling with a terminal illness

Young carers are recognised by the DfE as children who are vulnerable. This is because the level of care-giving and responsibility to the person in need of care is often inappropriate for that child's age and stage of development, and risks jeopardising their emotional or physical wellbeing, educational achievement and outcomes.

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. At Alsager School we acknowledge that there are young carers amongst our students, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education.

Roles of a young carer can include:

- Practical tasks – cooking, housework and shopping.
- Physical care – lifting or helping someone use the stairs.
- Personal care – dressing, washing, helping with toileting needs.
- Emotional support – listening, calming, being present.
- Managing the family budget, collecting benefits and prescriptions.
- Medication management.
- Looking after younger siblings.
- Helping someone communicate.

We strive to ensure we do all we can to meet the needs of these students.

3. YOUNG CARERS AND THE EFFECT 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	Isolation and embarrassment to take friends home
Emotional distress	Tiredness in school	Limited social skills
Lack of time for homework	Poor attainment	Bullying and low self esteem
Physical problems e.g. back pain from lifting	False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles	Feeling that no one understands and no support is available
Behavioural problems	Lack of time for extra-curricular activities	Lack of voice

4. SUPPORT OFFERED FOR YOUNG CARERS AT ALSAGER SCHOOL

At Alsager School, we ensure that the following support is available for all young carers within the school.

- Alsager School has identified Young Carer Champion leads: Helen Potts (Family Liaison Officer) will act as the Young Carer Champion Lead in school, with Rob Pearce (Designated Safeguarding Lead) as SLT link. Young Carer Champions are:
 1. Brittany Stokoe
 2. Lauren Brown
 3. Finty Clarke
 4. Harriette Instrell (Harriette Instrell is the Young Carers governing body link).
 5. Michael Bolton.
- All staff are made aware of who the Young Carers Champion staff are and the reporting/referral process
- The school has an effective internal reporting system between all staff and the Young Carers lead, Helen Potts via the Heads of College and the CPOMS system
 - *These are identified by Head of College in the first instance, Helen Potts (Family Liaison Officer) and Rob Pearce (the Designated Safeguarding Lead)*
- Any child/young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at the school will be referred to the appropriate services. Helen Potts will take the lead on this
- School has a procedure for identifying young carers on enrolment into the school
- When a young carer leaves the school, either to enter another high school or for any other reason, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school with consent from the family
- School will be sympathetic with late attendance due to a caring role (where this is a regular occurrence provision will be put into place to enable the young carer to attend regularly and on time)
- Specific input about young carers in assemblies and lessons 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.
 - *These are embedded into SPIRIT lessons and SPIRIT form time*
- The school will be sympathetic with regards to young carers and any barriers that may arise
- School will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality
- 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
- School will ensure young carers can access all available support services, the Head of College and the Young Carers Champions will lead on this
- School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers
 - *Form tutors are made aware of who young carers are in their tutor groups and will complete regular checks on these pupils to offer support*
- School will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime, for young carers to call home when required
- School will be sympathetic with deadlines for homework
- Children will be supported with schoolwork if there is a crisis at home
- School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility
- 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

Young Carers Policy
GB approved at the Resources Committee Meeting
on 02/04/2025



Alsager School

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- We will review our Young Carers register termly

This policy will be reviewed every two years or as is felt necessary.