



Limehurst Academy Policy Document

Young Carers

Date Approved by Governors: June 2019

Review Date: June 2020

Headteacher's signature:

Chair of Governors' signature:

Rationale

Limehurst Academy recognises that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. The whole school is committed to meeting the needs of young carers so that they are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers. We aim to provide our pupils who are identified as young carers with the chance to develop personally, socially, mentally, culturally and physically in order to maximise their participation in and enjoyment of learning and thus go on to have life choices that will allow them to thrive in the future.

Whilst we wish to be proactive in supporting our Young Carers and their families, we recognise that some families may wish to keep their situation private. However, by bringing the issue of Young carers to the fore, we hope to encourage them to come forward and thus benefit from any strategies we are able to put in place.

We also recognise that Young Carers have a right to privacy and will listen to and respect the individual Young Carers' views about the extent to which they would like to be supported – be this great or small.

At Limehurst Academy, we define a Young Carer as, someone under 16 years of age who has additional responsibilities within the family, this may involve caring for a sibling(s), a parent or a member of their extended family who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. They may take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities and/or have some self-care responsibilities.

We also recognise that pupils may also have additional caring responsibilities in the shorter term e.g. when a family member is in hospital or receiving treatment for a period of time.

When a child or young person looks after someone in their home or extended family on a long term or temporary basis, he or she may need extra support and understanding in order to gain the most from their time at school.

We seek to identify our Young Carers in the following ways:

- On entry to the school – via our pupil information sheet and liaison with previous schools;
- Having open relationships with our pupils and doing all we can to know them (and their families) well;
- Working with external agencies to offer support for our pupils and their families;
- A biannual survey of all pupils through data collection;
- 1-1 sessions with the schools Young Carers Champion;
- Awareness raising assemblies and PD lessons.

Supporting Young Carers and Their Families at Limehurst

Ms Durrands is Limehurst Academy's Young Carers Champion

The Young Carers Champion will be the main point of contact, offering support and guidance as required. They will alert staff to the needs of our Young Carers as required and can put Young Carers and their families in touch with local agencies and support groups.

Mrs Biswas and Mrs Kilner are Limehurst Academy's Community Liason Officers who also offer support to the families of Young Carers in order to help them to support their children in school as much as it is possible to do so.

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We also do all we can to ensure Young Carers have access to support when completing homework e.g via access to IT Rooms, homework clubs at lunch and after school and, breakfast club in the morning.

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Where a Young Carer is concerned about a family member, the Young Carers Champion will ensure that he or she has access to a telephone during the school day in order to make contact as appropriate.

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One to One sessions will provide young carers with the opportunity to speak to someone they trust and feel comfortable with. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.

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We regularly ask families about any special access requirements e.g via our Data Collection Sheet and are happy to make adaptations in order to allow caring families or families where illness or disability is an issue to access different aspects of school life e.g Parent/Open evenings, special performances and sporting events.

Training for Staff and Other Adults in School

All staff receive awareness training on Young Carers. This includes

- How to identify Young Carers
- How their caring roles can impact on their ability to participate fully in school. (Lateness or poor attendance, problems with concentration, under-achievement, tiredness, anxiety, inability to attend extra-curricular activities)
- The potential for social isolation or bullying
- Making reasonable and supportive adaptations.
- Difficulties in engaging parents e.g. via Parents/Open evenings.

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Staff are made aware of the designated Young Carers Champion and the ways in which they can signpost support as required.

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Staff will be updated on how to support Young Carers on a regular basis.

Working with Other Agencies

We recognise the importance of working together in partnership with other agencies e.g. Barnardo's Carefree Young Carers Service, Supporting Leicestershire Families, Strengthening Families in order to provide personalised support for Young Carers and their families inside and outside of school.

Monitoring Our Protocol

The Teaching and Learning Committee of the Board of Governors receives annual updates on the number of Young Carers in school and ways in which they are supported.

Links to other policies at Limehurst Academy

Safeguarding Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

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Attendance Policy

Links to Government policies

Department of Health, 2008. *National Carers Strategy*.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-national-carers-strategy>

The Care Act, 2014.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

The Children and Families Act, 2014.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted>

Department of Health and Social Care. Carers Action Plan 2018 – 2020, supporting carers today. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carers-action-plan-2018-to-2020>