



Young Carers Policy

Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed
March 2019				

Harrop Fold School, Hilton Lane, Worsley, Salford, M28 0SY. Tel: 0161 921 2144

Harrop Fold School is committed to supporting young carers to access education.

This policy aims to ensure that when a student is identified, as a young carer, they are offered support to participate, make progress and feel happy and safe at school by supporting them with some of the issues and concerns that they may have.

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 who carries out significant caring tasks and assumes a level of responsibility for another person which would normally be taken by an adult.”

They may be caring for somebody at home, a parent, sibling, grandparent or other relative.

In some instances a young carer may care for more than one family member.

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

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental Health Illness
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. They might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young carer has to deal with can range from:-

- **Nursing care** - giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility.
- **Personal intimate care** - washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements.
- **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.
- **Domestic care** - doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry.
- **Financial care** - running the household, bill paying, benefit collection.
- **Child care** - taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

Through communication with students and liaison with parents/carers and outside agencies we are aware that some of our students are young carers.

Being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. As a result of the additional responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

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

- Tiredness.
- 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 or 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.
- It also might be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about child being taken into care, fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called into question). They may be unable to attend parents' evenings.

At Harrop Fold we recognise that young carers may need extra support to ensure they feel supported and have equal access to education. As part of our duty of care and commitment to young carers we will;

- Provide young carers with opportunities to speak to the Lead Young Carer Professional in school.
- Treat young carers in a sensitive manner.
- Uphold confidentiality.
- Ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- Promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate an understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.

We also recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to phone home.
- Negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed).
- Access to homework clubs
- Lunchtime detentions rather than after school detentions (where possible).
- Access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or House bound.
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school.
- Home visits to discuss the progress of a young carer.
- Additional support from the student support team

We aim to support Young Carers through a whole-school approach and through working with other agencies and professionals with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the Young Carer.

A school lead will be assigned and will have special responsibility for Young Carers and their families.

Students and families will be made aware of the identity of the schools lead.

Training on Young Carers' issues will be embedded in ongoing professional development for the Lead Professional for Young Carers

During the school enrolment process for new students, the school will identify whether:

- parent(s) or family members have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health problems
- the student helps to look after them and if this has an impact on their education.

Students who are Young Carers will be identified along with any additional needs they may have.

Harrop Fold will aim to offer support to improve attendance and student's well-being.

Information about support available for Young Carers and how to access it will be made

clearly available to both students and families in school and via the school website and Young Carers Policy

The right to student's and families' privacy will be respected and Harrop Fold will only

share information with professionals and agencies on a 'need to know basis' in order to

support students and families.

The school recognises that Young Carers and their families need to receive coordinated

support in partnership with outside agencies.

Young Carers will be referred or signposted to other support agencies and professionals

as appropriate, including the local Young Carers' service.

Harrop Fold will refer or signpost families to other support services when appropriate

Harrop Fold adheres to the Disability Discrimination Acts (1995, 2005).

Harrop Fold is accessible to parents with disabilities and/or illness, offering additional

support to enable them to attend parents' evenings or other academy events. Home visits

will be considered where appropriate.

We will offer additional support to remove any communication barriers with

parents, so that parents are able to be fully engaged with the education of their child.

We will identify those Young Carers at risk of falling into the 'Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)' category and take appropriate actions to address this.

We will offer support to the young person and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school/college lead for Young Carers and their families.

Relevant aspects of the curriculum will be used to encourage positive approaches by all teachers and staff working with Young Carers.

We will use the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of, and respect for, issues such as caring, disability and impairment, for example, embedding the challenges faced by Young Carers into the curriculum.

We will consider alternatives if a Young Carer is unable to attend out of school activities, such as sports coaching or concerts, due to their caring role. The school will also consider lunchtime detentions rather than after school ones.

The school will allow Young Carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member.

Other appropriate policies, such as a bullying policy, will take Young Carers into account.

Useful contacts for Staff/Pupils/Parents & Carers:

Lead Professional Young Carers - Harrop Fold

Mrs Julie Jones

Harrop Fold School

0161 921 1113

Juliejones2@salford.gov.uk

Salford Young Carers Centre (Gaddum Salford)

Works with unpaid carers of all ages (young carers, young adult carers and adult carers) who provide care and support to someone who, without them, would not be able to manage.

This may be due to long term illness, disability, mental ill health, substance misuse or old age.

They provide one to one support, group activities, social opportunities and access to a range of services across Salford that they may otherwise not be aware of.

For more information about this service contact:-

Salford.carers@gaddum.co.uk or phone on 0161 212 5451/Facebook - Salford Carers - Gaddum

Open Monday to Friday 9 am to 4.30 pm

Salford Carers Centre

Langworthy Corner Stone

451 Liverpool Street

Salford

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