



Young Carers Policy



Horn's Mill Primary School

Delegate Function: committee, individual governor or head teacher

Approved by Governors: November 2015

Reviewed: November 2016

Reviewed: October 2018

This policy/document was reviewed by:-
Curriculum & Standards committee

Signed.....

Date:

Position.....

Signed.....

Date:

Position.....

November 2019

The next revision date is:

Horn's Mill Primary School Young Carers Policy

Introduction

This Young Carers Policy has been jointly produced by Cheshire Young Carers and Horn's Mill Primary School.

Commitment

Horn's Mill Primary School is committed to supporting young carers' emotional, educational and personal development to enable them to aspire and achieve in education regardless of complexities of their personal needs and home circumstances.

This policy sets out how we will live up to our commitment to increasing young carers' participation in education and supporting young carers with special education needs in conformity with Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework (September 2015) on monitoring young carers progress in education, the provisions of The Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 96) and The Children Act 1989 (Section 17ZB amended).

Definition of a young carer

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with and providing regular significant personal, physical or emotional care support to another family member, assuming a level of responsibility which would usually be associated only with an adult.

A child or young person can be caring for any of the following reasons:

- Parent or sibling with mental health problems
- Parent or sibling with a learning or physical disability
- Parent or sibling with an entrenched alcohol or substance misuse problem
- Parent or sibling with a chronic or terminal illness

Young Carers and the effect on their education

Being a young carer can have a serious adverse effect on a child/young person's education. Because they struggle to balance their care responsibilities at home with expectations at school, a young carer is likely to regularly experience any one or more of the following:

- Being late or absent due to fulfilling care responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems in the classroom
- Emotional distress - anxiety, anger, fear, worry, self-doubt
- Mental and/or physical fatigue or tiredness
- Lack of time to complete coursework/homework on time or at all
- Academic underachievement relative to peers
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting or other physical care duties



- False signs of maturity linked to assuming adult roles and responsibilities
- Attitudinal/Behavioural problems e.g. isolation; challenging; disruptive; disengaged
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities at Academy/School/College* or at home
- Aloof/Isolated - embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills and missing on 'normal' childhood/adolescent life experiences
- Bullying - victim or perpetrator
- Feeling that no one understands or cares about them and that no support is available
- Low self-esteem and a feeling of being incompetent (often unjustified)

Quotes from young carers:

"I worry about my dad all day when I am at school and find it hard to concentrate in class"
Tom age 10

"I need someone to talk to at my high school about my home life and how caring for my mum affects me" Jenny age 16

"I think about my mum all the time when I am at school; I feel sad but can't tell my friends" Amy age 8

"My teachers don't understand how hard it is for me to do my best in school and at the same time look after my little brother who has got cerebral palsy at home" Jack age 14

Support offered

Horn's Mill PS undertakes that the following support is available for all young carers within the school.

- Horn's Mill has an identified primary young carers link/representative who is Sharon Wyatt, Head Teacher. A second named person in Gill Bond, Family Support Worker.
- There is a full role description of the young carers link/representative provided in the appendix to this policy
- All staff are made aware of who their young carers representatives are and the internal reporting/referral process to these persons. Children will be referred by teachers or teaching assistants to the Family Support Worker in the usual way should any staff member have concerns about a child who may be taking on a Young Carer role.
- Any child/young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at Horn's Mill will be referred to appropriate services subject to his/her consent using the Form.
- Horn's Mill has a procedure for identifying young carers on enrolment into the school. The young carers will be provided for families when they start at Horn's Mill at the discretion of the admin staff or Head Teacher.



- When a young carer leaves the School either to proceed into further education or to another peer education centre, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next academy/school/college subject to the consent of the young carer and his/her family.
- School will be flexible with occasional late attendance due to a young carer's caring role; where this is a regular occurrence of lateness provision will be put into place to find a solution complying with all current policy.
- Horn's Mill will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent to staff and that appropriate support is sourced.
- Horn's Mill will at all times be flexible with regards to young carers issues and their needs upholding confidentiality.
- Horn's Mill acknowledges that young carers will not be obliged to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. A young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Horn's Mill will ensure young carers can access all available pastoral and other support services at school.
- Horn's Mill will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Horn's Mill will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime for young carers to call home.
- Horn's Mill will seek to negotiate reasonable deadlines with young carers for completion and submission of homework/coursework (when needed).
- Horn's Mill will ensure that young carers have access to a homework club.
- Horn's Mill will make arrangements for young carers' course/home work to be sent home electronically, by hand or by post (when there is a genuine crisis) N.B This will be agreed with young carers and have a set time limit.
- Horn's Mill will provide access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Horn's Mill will provide alternative communication options for parents of young carers who are sensory impaired or are housebound; this will include alternative communication options for parents' evenings.
- Appropriate provisions will be put into place for young carers whose parents do not drive due to illness or disability. (Following safe guarding procedures at all times).



- Horn's Mill 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 in line with the schools safeguarding and child protection procedures.
- Horn's Mill will work in partnership with Cheshire Young Carers to ensure that a high quality standard of support for young carers is achieved at all times.
- Horn's Mill will commit to accessing and providing training for staff about young carers and their issues.

This policy will be reviewed annually by Horn's Mill Primary School and Cheshire Young Carers.

Next review date: November 2019



Appendix

Cheshire Young Carers Education Support Programme Young Carers Link/Representative Role Description

The role description of a school's young carers link/representative should fit well with its Young Carers Policy and ensure it adheres to what this policy states.

The key responsibilities of an school's Young Carer link/representative, whose identity should be disclosed in the Young Carer Policy, are as follows:

- To have completed training provided by Cheshire Young Carers to help identify and support young carers in education.
- To ensure that a school's Young Carers Policy is complete, circulated among and adhered to by staff, governors, children and parents.
- To ensure that all young people, staff and parents are aware that they are the nominated Young Carers link/representative at the school.
- To ensure that they make him/herself available for young carers at appropriate times and offer support in a non-judgemental manner.
- To ensure that the school has appropriate procedures in place for reporting any concerns about a child who may be caring for a parent, sibling or guardian in the home.
- To ensure that support is in place at the school for young carers to overcome barriers to education to allow them the same equal opportunities as their peers.
- To take all reasonable steps to engage with parents of young carers who may be suffering from an illness or disability and contact Cheshire Young Carers for advice and support if establishing contact or finding communication is proving difficult.
- To participate in Team Around the Family (TAF) processes where necessary and make clear to the TAF agency representatives of the nature of the child's caring role.
- To refer all cases of children/young people at the school who are caring for someone and needing support to Cheshire Young Carers, subject to the consent of both young carer and his/her parents or guardians.
- To ensure that all cases of inappropriate caring putting a child's own physical or mental health at risk is reported to CART.
- To ensure that the school issues the young carer enrolment questionnaire to parents or guardians of all new intake to identify any potential young carers being admitted to the education centre.



- To embed a supportive environment for young carers within the school to enable them to thrive in education and be able to achieve despite their circumstances at home.
- To inform families about the role and service provided by Cheshire Young Carers

Cheshire Young Carers (December 2013)