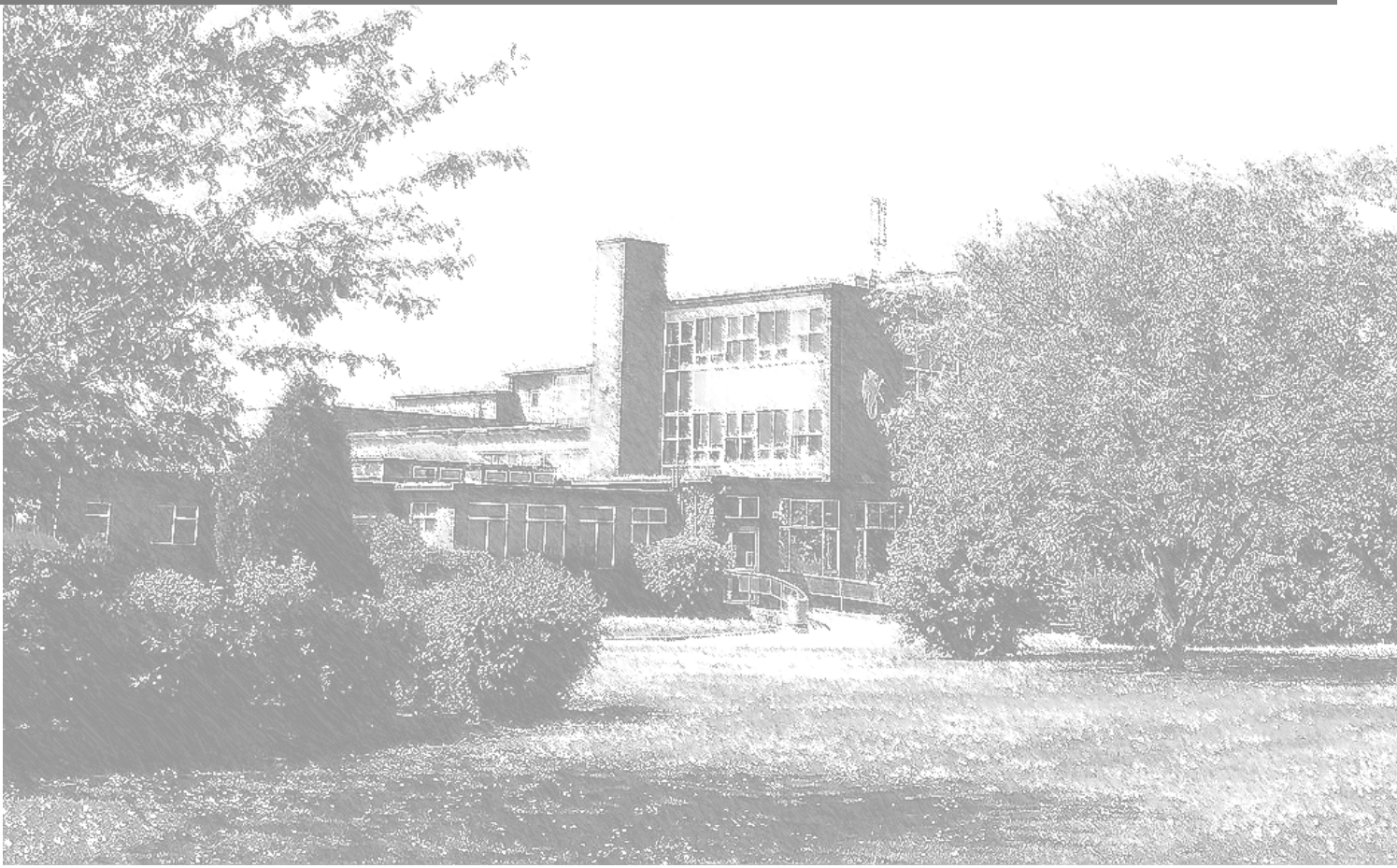




Young Carers Policy

September

2021



AIMS

We seek to fulfil the needs of learners in a caring, happy environment, enabling them to realise their true potential as young people and citizens.

We aim to enable our learners to:-

PREPARE for adult life in a happy, caring and purposeful environment

ACHIEVE their full potential regardless of individual need

CCARE for everyone and encourage respect and tolerance

ENJOY education and rejoice in success



Introduction

This Young Carers Policy has been written by staff from Cheshire Young Carers and The Whitby High School.

Commitment

The Whitby High 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 regardless of complexities of needs and home. This policy explains how we will live up to our commitment

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 undertaken by an adult.

They can be caring for any of the following-

- Parent or sibling suffering from a mental health problem
- Parent or sibling with a physical disability
- Parent or sibling with substance misuse problems
- Parent or sibling with learning disabilities
- Parent or sibling with a terminal illness.
- Other family member with the above if resident with the child.

Young Carers and the effects 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
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- 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 and frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying/being bullied
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem
- Increased susceptibility to involvement in County Lines
- Increased susceptibility to involvement in CSE

Support offered

The Whitby High School ensures that support is available for all young carers within the school. Form Tutors and House Progress Managers oversee the day-to-day pastoral care of all students, including young carers. Reasonable adjustment will be made for Young Carers where appropriate. At The Whitby High School:

- Staff are made aware of the possible signs that a young person is a “hidden” young carer.
- All staff are made aware of the reporting/referral process (Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy).
- There is a confidential internal communication system between all staff and the young carer’s representative.
- Any young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at the school will be referred to the appropriate services.
- There is a procedure for identifying young carers on enrolment into the school.
- When a young carer transfers to another school, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school.
- We will support the family to ensure excellent punctuality and attendance is maintained so the young person can benefit from the whole school experience
- We will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent and appropriate support is sourced.
- Lesson plans in PHSE 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. Cheshire Young Carers staff will on occasion input into this.
- We acknowledge that young carers will not be obliged to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person’s caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- We will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- We will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- We will allow students (by agreement on an individual basis) to have access to their mobile phone at key points if there is genuine need for them to be in contact with home. We will be offer support where a young person struggles to meet homework/coursework deadlines.
- We will provide notice for detentions
- We will provide access for parents with impaired mobility.
- We will provide alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or are housebound; this will include alternative communication options for parents’ evenings.
- We 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.
- We will work in partnership with Cheshire Young Carers and other agencies where appropriate to ensure that a high standard of support for young carers is provided
- We will commit to accessing and providing training for staff about young carers and their issues.

This policy is reviewed annually.