

Shillingstone CE Primary School YOUNG CARER POLICY

2025-26

REVIEW YEARLY



AIMS OF YOUNG CARER POLICY

- **Improve young carers' educational outcomes and wellbeing** by raising achievement standards, supporting attendance, and promoting positive self-worth.
- **Ensure inclusion, protection, and fair treatment** through reasonable adjustments, safeguarding against unjust treatment, and strengthening coordination with external agencies and support services.
- **Amplify young carers' voices** by involving them in decisions that shape young carer provision and ensuring their experiences inform school practice.
- **Strengthen staff and leadership accountability** by ensuring staff recognise the need for flexibility and having designated professionals responsible for monitoring and supporting young carer provision.

DEFINITION OF A YOUNG CARER

A young carer is a child under the age of 18 who cares for another person in their home. Young carers could provide care for their parents, siblings or grandparents. There are many reasons young people become young carers including:

provides care for somebody in their home.
A young carer could be looking after or helping to look after a parent, sibling or relative with:

Long-term illness or health condition, such as epilepsy, cancer or diabetes

Physical disability, such as mobility issues or blindness

Mental health condition or illness such as anxiety or depression

Substance use disorder e.g. alcohol or drugs

Special educational needs such as autism or ADHD

. A young carer could be helping and supporting their family more than a traditional child would be with housework or practical tasks.

Take more responsibility for sibling or siblings.

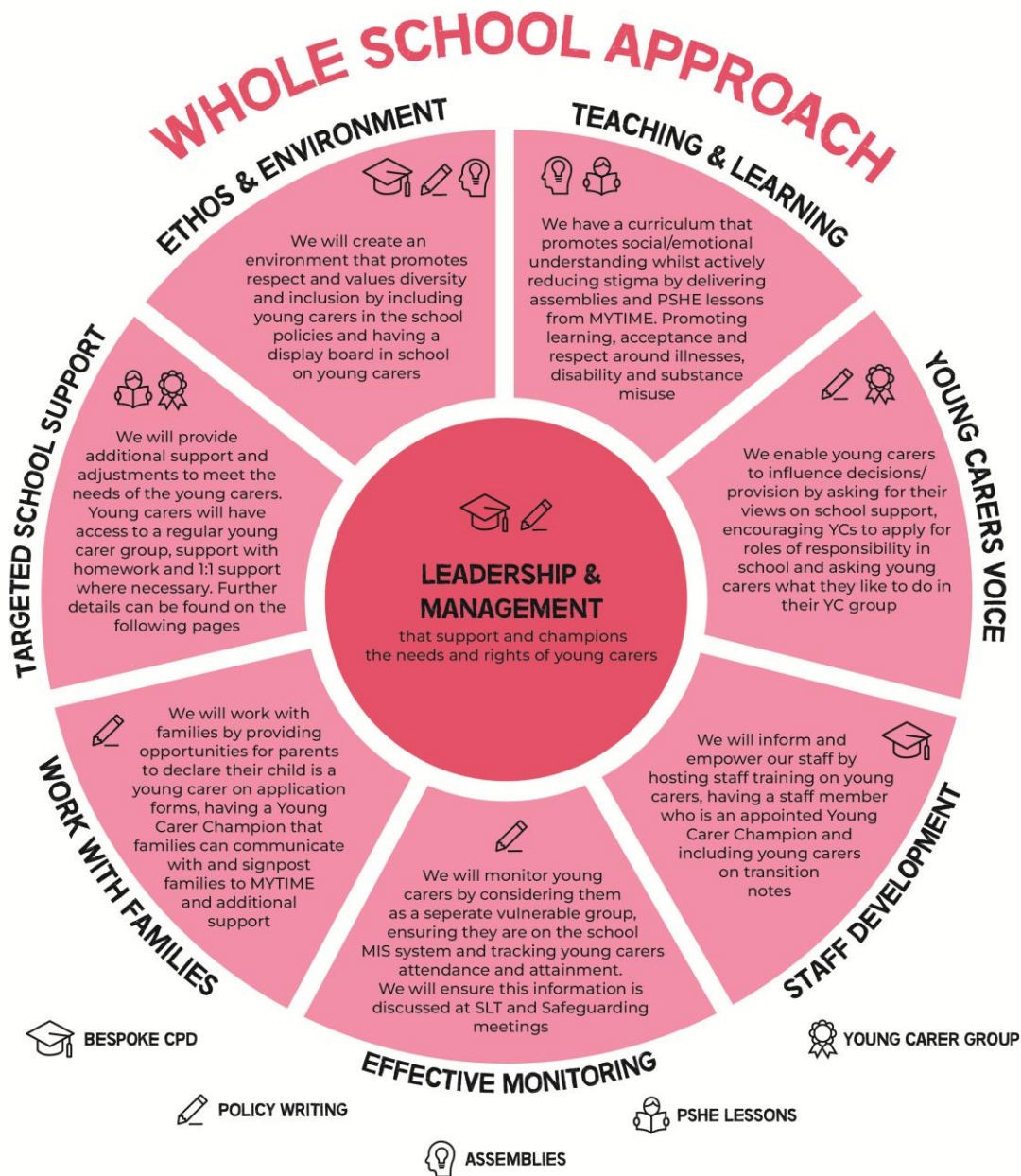
Provide emotional support on a consistent basis.

Having a clear definition of the role of a young carer is important, but unfortunately, many will remain hidden from view due to stigma they may feel. To help identify and support those hidden young carers, it is vital that professionals and our community are equipped with the understanding and knowledge to detect potential signs that a young person may have a caring responsibility.

SAFEGUARDING

Shillingstone CE Primary School actively promotes the welfare and wellbeing of all pupils. Where appropriate, the school will refer a young carer to the local authority for a referral with permission of the parents/carers. The school will follow the school's safeguarding policy regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

As a school, we recognise young carers support is most effective when a whole school approach is applied. We will use the areas highlighted below to ensure that young carers are supported holistically to ensure they receive the best possible outcomes.



PROVISION WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AND REVIEWED THROUGH ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW BY AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF SLT, GOVERNOR AND YOUNG CARER CHAMPION

MEMBER OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mr Andy Wright

MEMBER OF GOVERNORS

Mr John Harris

YOUNG CARER CHAMPION

Mr John Harris

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Appointed Governor

- ▷ Understand how policies and procedures support young carers
- ▷ Explore what training and development has been provided to the Young Carer Champion and staff
- ▷ Know what information is shared with parents and externals on the support of young carers
- ▷ Hold senior leadership and Young Carer Champion to the aims and objectives of the school's young carer action plan

Appointed member of Senior Leadership

- ▷ Support Young Carer Champion with implementing the action plan and strategy for young carers
- ▷ Support Young Carer Champion with organising the delivery of the Young Carer Champion Academy Programme and subsequent MYTIME Young Carers offers
- ▷ Have overall responsibility for the provision and progress of young carers
- ▷ Provide data for the Young Carer Champion and MYTIME Young Carers at required points in the year

Young Carer Champion

- ▷ Oversee the policy and provision for proactive identification of young carers
- ▷ Establish a first point of contact for young carers and their families, ensuring they understand how to self-identify and access support
- ▷ Ensure staff have a good understanding of who young carers are and the support available in school
- ▷ Ensure Young Carers are known and identifiable by all staff
- ▷ Ensure Young Carers numbers are continuously reviewed, and this information is included in the school census
- ▷ Ensure Young Carers are supported appropriately by communicating with the young carer, their family and their teachers
- ▷ Ensure the curriculum promotes a full understanding of the role young carers play in their home, whilst actively reducing stigma
- ▷ Provide opportunities for 1:1 support and Young Carers groups, building a community of young carers
- ▷ Create a clear line of communication for young carers to access support
- ▷ Report of the strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations to SLT to improve support for young carers
- ▷ Create annual action plans for young carer provision, with the support of MYTIME
- ▷ Identify barriers to achievement, through conversations and data monitoring, and build provision to combat these
- ▷ Keep up to date with local and national developments
- ▷ Oversee transition between phases of education
- ▷ To communicate with MYTIME Young Carers to support them in the development of the Young Carer Champion Academy, with the goal to build strong young carer provision across the UK

Shillingstone Primary School

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS FOR YOUNG CARERS

There is a dedicated Young Carer Champion John Harris who supports young carers.
Young carers can speak to the champion Shillingstone Primary School

EXAMPLE - If the person a young carer cares for is critically unwell, we will:

INSERT REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT 1

Be more understanding of absences due to illness or medical appointments of the person a young carer cares for.

INSERT REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT 2

Provide more opportunities for the young carer to share their feelings through ELSA sessions or Little Lives sessions.

INSERT REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT 3

Inform staff working with that young carer of the situation. Inform staff that expectations may need to be lowered for the young carer.

INSERT REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT 4

Provide opportunities for the young carer to communicate with that person from the office phone.

INSERT REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT 5

Provide the young carer with an extended deadline to complete homework.

INSERT REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT 6

Offer free access for:

- *Breakfast club*
- *After- school clubs*
- *School uniform*