Great Waltham C of E VC Primary School

Young Carers Policy

Approved by:	SLT
Last reviewed on:	November 2026
Next review due by:	November 2027

Policy Statement

At Great Waltham C of E Primary School we believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their situation at home. When a young person has a caring responsibility they may need extra support to help them get the most out of school. We define a Young Carer as a child or young person who has caring responsibilities for a family member with a disability, health condition, mental health need or substance misuse issue. Young carers may provide physical care, personal care, help with medication or practical tasks, or provide emotional support. This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home. We work in conjunction with Essex Young Carers to support young carers and their families.

Aims

- Identify pupils who may have caring responsibilities.
- Minimise barriers to learning, attendance and participation.
- Promote emotional wellbeing and inclusion.
- Ensure young carers have access to the same opportunities as their peers.
- Work in partnership with families and external agencies.

Leadership and Responsibilities

The school has a designated Young Carers Lead who coordinates support, liaises with families and external agencies, and monitors the wellbeing and progress of identified young carers.

Identification

Young carers may be identified through discussions with parents, pupil voice, staff observations, safeguarding processes, attendance monitoring, referrals from health professionals or external agencies, or through self-referral.

Our Commitment

- Provide annual training and information for staff on identifying and supporting young carers.
- Proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face.
- Make referrals to Essex Young Carers where appropriate and with consent.
- Welcome visits from Essex Young Carers to provide support sessions.
- Provide information on support for young carers on the school website.
- Consider alternatives where a young carer cannot attend extracurricular activities.
- Ensure communications are accessible to parents and carers with additional needs.
- Avoid assumptions and treat all families with dignity and respect.
- Respect privacy and share information only on a need-to-know basis.
- Treat young carers in a sensitive, child-centred and confidential manner.
- Include young carers in transition arrangements where appropriate.

Support Available

- Access to a trusted adult in school.
- Pastoral and wellbeing support.
- Reasonable flexibility with homework where appropriate.
- Additional support during periods of family difficulty.
- Monitoring of attendance, wellbeing and progress.
- Opportunities to engage with Essex Young Carers activities.
- Annual opportunities for young cares pupil voice
- Enhanced transition support.

Attendance

The school recognises that caring responsibilities may occasionally affect attendance or punctuality. Where this occurs, the school will work closely with families to understand circumstances and identify appropriate support whilst maintaining high expectations for attendance.

Monitoring and Review

The Young Carers Lead will maintain an overview of identified young carers and review the effectiveness of support arrangements annually.