

GROVE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Young Carers Policy

Date of Policy: Summer 2024

Reviewed: Annually

Introduction

We are committed to ensuring all children, regardless of their differences have access to first quality teaching and become independent and successful learners. Grove Wood Primary School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, the school is giving the message that young carers' education is important.

Aims

This policy will outline how, as a school, we support those pupils who have been identified as young carers. Our main aims are:

- Early identification of young carers
- To raise awareness of young carers among all members of staff including the Governing Board.
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students
- To ensure young carers feel both included and supported in school
- To ensure young carers take a full part in all school activities
- To ensure young carers are involved in discussion and decisions affecting the young carers provision at GWPS
- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for all young carers
- To ensure young carers are aware of the support within school and external to school, that is available to them.

Implementation

- The appointment of a Young Carers team in school to monitor the provision for young carers in school
 - Mrs Harvey – Young Carers Senior Leadership Team Lead
 - Mrs Backhouse – Young Carers Champion Lead
- This team will monitor the progress of young carers, monitor attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- To maintain and review GWPS young carers register regularly, to report on the census and to share this information with all staff
- To maintain and review young carers policy on an annual basis
- The school will treat young carers in a sensitive and child centred way, upholding confidentiality
- To ensure that young carers have access to the designated mental health lead, operational support and senior leadership in school, where necessary
- The school will follow safeguarding procedures regarding any young carers at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- Provide a safe and confidential space for daily drop ins with the young carer leads.
- Young Carer's weekly lunchtime activity programme where young carers can meet and have fun together allowing them to connect with others in

- a similar position
- To make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case by case basis, regarding issues such as arriving late, homework submission and uniform, where appropriate
- The school works closely with external agencies, such as Young Carers in school and SCAFT, to maintain an up to date training package for staff.
- Annual 'Young Carers' Day' assemblies delivered by our Young Carer Senior Leadership Team Lead, to encourage young carers to come forward and make themselves known.
- EYFS Lead and Inclusion staff visit every child at preschool prior to joining GWPS. They also visit each new starter in their home setting as part of a robust transition programme where any young carer needs may be identified.
- Information for parents on school website to help identify if their child is a young carer.
- Termly extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connections for all young carers.
- Visible young carers board, containing details of support available to them. This is located near the dinner hall in a central part of the school.

Impact

By promoting a positive image and acceptance of young carers, illness and disability, the stigma associated with them is reduced, so young carers and families feel comfortable identifying as early as possible. This enables us to provide appropriate support enabling the children to thrive at GWPS; the ultimate goal being increasing engagement, attendance and attainment.

How will we measure the impact of what we offer?

A range of techniques will be used to measure our success.

- Young carers register documenting attainment and attendance monitored by the attendance officer and SLT
- The early identification of young carers at GWPS
- Feedback from young carers via annual questionnaires
- Staff training completed annually