

Newton Tony Primary School CE VC	
'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 15:12)	
Young Carer Policy	
Policy agreed	September 2024
Policy review	September 2027 (or as required)

**Our School Vision**

Our school is a safe, welcoming and nurturing school that offers a sense of belonging. We are situated in a small, rural village and we pride ourselves that we know each and every child. Our strength lies in putting the needs of the child at the heart of everything we do. We offer an exciting and stimulating curriculum, with high quality teaching that provides a rich, rewarding and enjoyable learning environment for all. Through a solid partnership working with parents, our church and His Majesty’s Armed forces, we encourage children to become confident, caring and independent young learners. We believe that ‘Everyone cares and Everyone counts’ In our school our vision is underpinned by the bible verse 'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 15:12) ; it shapes all we do.

**Introduction**

All pupils at Newton Tony Primary School have the right to attend school full time and have full access to their education and extra-curricular activities, regardless of context. This can be difficult for a pupil to achieve if they have additional responsibilities at home, this policy exists to recognise, identify, and champion those who are identified as being a Young Carer.

**Definition of a Young Carer**

Young carers are defined as children under 18 with caring responsibilities. Their rights to be assessed come mostly from the Children’s Act 1989 and the Children and Families Act 2014. As part of the whole family approach, if there is a person within the home who requires a level of support, the local council has a duty to consider whether there are any children involved in providing that care, and if so, what the impact is on that child. Person who requires care from the child/young person, may be a parent or carer, sibling or anyone else living within the same home.

Conditions in which an adult may need support from a child include but are not exclusive to:

- Addiction
- Mental health concerns/illness
- Physical disability

And where these conditions impact daily life.

Where the ‘cared for’ is a sibling conditions may include but not exclusive to:

- Mental health concerns/illness
- Physical Disability
- Additional need

And where these conditions are having an impact on the how the family manages day to day life. This may mean that a sibling is missing out on opportunities due to the conditions the ‘cared for’ is experiencing.

## **What is caring?**

Caring constitutes as:

- Physical activity within the home (e.g cleaning, cooking, shopping) which due to the condition the 'cared for' is unable to complete. This does not include 'age appropriate' household chores.
- Personal care – providing the 'cared for' with assistance with bathing, dressing etc
- Emotional support – due to the 'cared for' condition emotional support to an adult in the home is given by the young carer.

The local council have a duty to assess, and the assessment must involve the child with caring responsibilities, their parents and any other person the young carer requests in the assessment process.

## **What support do we give young carers?**

Through the support of our Head Teacher, ELSA, Senior Mental Health Lead and Safeguarding team, pupils are:

- Appropriately identified as a vulnerable group on the school systems
- Offered appropriate support and guidance in school
- Monitored closely for their progress
- Signposted to support and access to age-appropriate activities and events
- Recognised and celebrated for their achievements
- Able to retain privacy as a young carer if they wish

## **How do we identify a young carer?**

Anyone who thinks a child could be a young carer can refer the child into Wiltshire Council for a young carers' assessment. The Head Teacher will complete the Integrated Front Door (IFD) Referral Form and email to [Integratedfrontdoor@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Integratedfrontdoor@wiltshire.gov.uk). We liaise closely with parents/carers and encourage them to support us in identifying any young carers in their home. We also use the Wiltshire Healthy School Young Carers Threshold Document for guidance and support.

<https://www.wiltshirehealthyschools.org/documents/carers/Young%20Carers%20threshold%20document.pdf>

Some indicators that a pupil has a caring role are:

- Regular lateness or unauthorised absence, possibly increasing periodically
- Tiredness during the school day
- Lack of concentration, anxiety or worry
- Under-achievement for potential capability
- Difficulties in self-regulation, especially inappropriate responses possibly resulting from anger or frustration
- Fewer peer friendships than expected but good relationship with adults and appearing mature for their age
- Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities, especially after the school day

Some young carers worry about appearing different to their peers, bullying or interference in their family life and may seek to conceal their role from their peers and from teachers.

## **Working with other schools**

During transition between other primary schools or Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, pupils in Year 6 who are young carers will be identified to ensure continuing support is in place for them. Working with the Local Authority Most young carers will meet the definition of a 'child in need' under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and are entitled to an assessment from Children's Services. In the event of any young carers being at risk of significant harm the school's safeguarding policy will be followed.

### **Additional support**

If we believe that a pupil is likely to be a Young Carer, we will be sensitive when approaching them and their family about this, as we acknowledge that it may not be something they wish to disclose. When a pupil is identified the following support is available.

- Every Young Carer will be assigned to a member of staff, usually the Head Teacher. who will complete the 'One Page Profile' with them, that can be shared with adults at school.
- A visual display which offers informational leaflets and posters for potential Young Carers. The school will raise the profile of young carers through assemblies
  - Liaison and reasonable adjustment for young carers who are unable to attend out of school activities due to their caring role.
  - Consideration of communication with home at times of stress – eg the opportunity for young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes.
  - Reasonable adjustment to accommodate parental liaison around progress and pastoral issues e.g. telephone consultation for parents' evening events, parking arrangements.
  - Space and time in school to complete homework
  - Sign posted to support from Wiltshire Young Carers and referrals for any trips away / financial support when appropriate.
- Access to ELSA or art therapy sessions

### **Monitoring**

The Headteacher and the teaching and Learning Governor sub-committee will monitor academic progress of our young carers and intervene as necessary at key data analysis points. The named lead for each individual student will monitor and support the student and their family, and ensure their own knowledge is up to date through accessing the CPD on Wiltshire LA Rightchoice, Wiltshire Healthy Schools

<https://www.wiltshirehealthyschools.org/core-themes/emotional-health-and-wellbeing/supporting-young-carers/>