

NESTON HIGH SCHOOL YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Introduction

This Young Carers Policy has been written by young carers/expert staff from Cheshire Young Carers, Mr Dool (Headteacher), Mrs Hudson (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Bimpson (PLM Grenfell).

Commitment

Neston High School's commitment is to support the emotional and academic needs of young carers to achieve in their education and to aspire in education as people regardless of complexities of needs and home.

This policy explains how we 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 mental health issues
- 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

Young Carers and the effects on their education

Being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young persons' education. Staff would use these indicators along with knowledge of the child, to make a judgement about whether or not the child needs further support.

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

- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

Quotes from young carers

“I worry about my dad all day when I am at school and find it hard to concentrate”
Tom age 10

“I need someone to talk to at school about my home life”
Jenny age 9

“I feel worried about my mum when I am at school; I feel upset and can't tell my friends”
Amy age 8

Support offered

Neston High School ensures that the following support is available for all young carers within the school.

- Neston High School has identified young carers' representative, Mrs Hudson, Deputy Headteacher. A second named person in Mrs Hudson's absence is Mrs C Bimpson, PLM – Grenfell. The designated Trustee for young carers is Mrs Beth Jones.
- There is a full role description of the young carers' representative this can be found in the Pastoral Learning Mentor job description.
- All staff are made aware of who their young carers representative is and the reporting/referral process to this person.
- The school has an internal effective reporting system between all staff and the young carers' representative.
- Any child/young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at school will be referred to the appropriate services with child and family's consent – Barnados in Wirral and Cheshire Young Carers.
- School has a procedure for identifying young carers on enrolment into the school. **(REF - Questionnaire can be found in Appendix A and Data pack for new students)**
- When a young carer leaves the school, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school subject to consent from the family.
- School will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent and appropriate support is sourced **(REF Attendance Policy)**
- Information on Cheshire and Wirral Young Carers will form part of the PD programme and will be reviewed on an annual basis. The lesson plans 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.

- The school will at all times be flexible with regards to young carers and their issues upholding confidentiality.
- School acknowledges that young carers will not be obliged to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young persons' caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- The school will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- School will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime, for young carers to call home – students should go to their Head of House or PLM.
- School will ensure that young carers have access to a homework club through Exl.
- Arrangements will be made for school work to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis) N.B. This needs to be agreed with young carer and must have a set time limit.
- School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility. **(REF Equality Policy)**
- School will provide alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or are housebound; this will include alternative communication options for parents' evenings.
- Appropriate provisions will be put into place for young carers whose parents do not drive due to illness or disability. (Following safe guarding procedures at all times)
- School will always report any cases of child/young person who may be carrying out an inappropriate caring role, which is causing immediate concern for their safety. **(REF – Safeguarding Policy)**
- School will work in partnership with Cheshire Young Carers to ensure that a high quality standard of support for young carers is achieved at all times.
- School will commit to accessing and providing training for staff about young carers and their issues. **(REF Safeguarding Policy)**

This policy will be reviewed annually by Neston High School.

Name of Policy	Young Carers Policy
Name of lead member of staff	JTY / CBI
Committee & Date of Review	Liaison 1.2.17 Full 21.3.17
Date of next planned review	2018

Appendix A – Young Carers Form for Data Pack

YOUNG CARERS ENROLMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Neston High School understands that some young people may be living with someone with an illness or disability. We have a commitment to provide equal opportunities for all young people and this includes young carers.

To enable us to support your child in the best way please complete and return this short questionnaire.

Does anyone in the family home have any of the following?

(Please tick all that apply)

- Physical Disability
- Mental Health Issues
- Substance Misuse e.g. alcohol/drugs
- Learning Disability
- Terminal Illness

If so please provide brief details of which family members and what they are affected by:

Does your child carry out any of the following tasks on a regular basis within the home?

(Please tick all that apply)

- Looking after younger or older siblings
- Physical Support e.g. help getting parent, sibling into/out the bath; toileting
- Cooking
- Shopping/Paying Bills/Collecting Benefit payments
- Cleaning
- Laundry
- Emotional Support e.g. listening to parent or sibling; offering words of comfort
- Other care related tasks (please describe):



Name of your child/young carer:

Address:

Thank you for completing this form.

All information supplied in this questionnaire will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Information

The name of the young carer's representative at Neston High School is:

Mrs C. Bimpson, Pastoral Learning Mentor for Grenfell House.

The contact details for making a referral to your nearest Young Carers' Project is:

Sara Jones,
Caseworker,
Cheshire Young Carers,
Unit 2, Stanlaw Abbey Business Centre,
Dover Drive, Ellesmere Port
Cheshire CH65 9BF

Email: sara.jones@youngcarersnetwork.co.uk

Neston High School and Cheshire young Carers have developed a Young Carer's Policy that is adhered to within the School and can be viewed on request.