



Newtown CofE Primary School

Young Carers Policy

Ratification Date:	July 2026	Signed: Mrs E Howlett (Headteacher) Mrs G Wright (Chair of Governors)
Next review	July 2027	

School Vision

At Newtown C of E Primary School, our motto is enriched and sustained by our Christian values of **Love, Courage and Friendship**, rooted in the teachings of the Bible. We are guided by the call to *"love one another as I have loved you"* (John 13:34), *"be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"* (Joshua 1:9), and *"a friend loves at all times"* (Proverbs 17:17).

As a school at the heart of an evolving community, we warmly welcome children and families from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. We are enriched by the unique qualities each child brings and value the talents and perspectives that help us grow together.

We are an aspirational school serving our community. We seek to know, understand and celebrate every child, nurturing their individual strengths and talents. We prepare our children to become confident, responsible global citizens in an ever-changing world, guided by our core values of love, courage and friendship.

Through **Love**, we show kindness, compassion and generosity, building a community where everyone feels safe, welcomed and valued. Through **Courage**, we persevere, meet challenge with confidence, and stand up for what is right with honesty and grace. Through **Friendship**, we grow together — encouraging one another, celebrating each other's gifts, and looking to the future with hope and aspiration.

We live out these values by:

- Being a caring, welcoming and inclusive Christian community where staff, pupils, parents and governors work together in a safe and supportive environment, inspired by *"Above all, love each other deeply"* (1 Peter 4:8)
- Promoting the welfare and dignity of every child, safeguarding them from harm — including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying — in accordance with statutory guidance in *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (Department for Education)
- Providing a rich, engaging curriculum that equips children with the knowledge, skills and character to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens, reflecting Christian teachings and British Values
- Building strong, positive partnerships with parents, the church and the wider community, and encouraging participation in local, national and global initiatives
- Fostering our Learning Behaviours of Resilience, Focus, Independence, Self-Regulation, Respect and Boundaries, encouraging children to act with integrity, perseverance and kindness in all they do

At Newtown, we want every child to know they belong, are cherished, and are capable of great things. Through **Love, Courage and Friendship**, we grow minds, shape futures and journey together in hope.

Introduction

Newtown C of E Primary School recognises that some pupils may have responsibilities at home due to the illness, disability, mental health needs, or substance misuse of a family member. These pupils are known as young carers. We are committed to ensuring that all young carers are identified, supported, and able to achieve their full potential in education. We aim to provide a community for children which keeps them safe, supports their creativity and enables them to meet their full potential. When a child looks after someone in their family with a history of long term physical or mental health illness, a disability or alcohol or substance abuse the young person may need some extra support to help them get the most out of school. Newtown C of E Primary School is committed to supporting young carers' access to a full education. This Young Carers' policy will set out how we will help any pupil who looks after someone at home. This policy should be implemented by all staff members in order to raise awareness about the needs of young carers and ensure young carers at our school are identified and offered appropriate support.

Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is a person under 18 who helps care for a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally unwell, or affected by substance misuse.

Caring responsibilities may include:

- Physical or personal care
- Emotional support
- Managing medication or medical tasks
- Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of another person

Young carers may also be children whose own emotional or developmental needs are significantly affected by their caring role.

Some young carers support siblings with additional needs; these children are often referred to as young sibling carers.

The level of responsibility undertaken by a young carer is often beyond what is typically expected for their age and goes further than normal household chores.

Responsibilities may include practical duties, personal care, medical support and emotional support. The level of responsibility assumed by a Young Carer is often inappropriate to their age and at a level beyond simply helping out with jobs at home, which is a normal part of growing up.

Aims of the Policy

We aim to:

- Identify young carers as early as possible
- Provide appropriate support to reduce barriers to learning
- Raise awareness across the school community
- Work in partnership with families and external agencies
- Ensure young carers feel safe, valued, and included

Young carers can miss significant amounts of school and are more likely to experience persistent absence. Supporting them effectively helps remove barriers that may otherwise impact both their education and wellbeing. Where caring responsibilities affect attendance or punctuality, the school will work with families and relevant agencies to identify appropriate support and reduce barriers to education.

Roles and Responsibilities

Newtown C of E Primary School has appointed two Young Carer Leads:

- Miss Claridge (ELSA and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Mrs Whittle (Home School Wellbeing Manager and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Headteacher Mrs E Howlett
- Young Carers Governor Mr R Swain

Miss Claridge and Mrs Whittle are responsible for coordinating support, maintaining records, and liaising with external agencies.

All staff share responsibility for sensitively identifying and supporting young carers.

The school will provide regular information and training opportunities to ensure staff understand the needs of young carers, know how to identify potential young carers and understand referral pathways within school.

Identification

Young carers may be identified through:

- Communication with parents/carers
- Staff observations
- Self-identification by pupils
- Information from external agencies

Possible indicators include:

- Frequent lateness or absence
- Tiredness in school
- Incomplete or inconsistent homework
- Difficulty concentrating or signs of anxiety
- Underachievement
- Behavioural difficulties or frustration
- Limited peer relationships, but maturity beyond their age
- Experiences of bullying
- Low engagement in extracurricular activities, especially after school
- Lack of parental attendance at meetings
- Difficulty managing school tasks

Support

The school provides a range of support, coordinated by the Young Carer Leads:

- Flexible arrangements for parent meetings (including phone or home contact where appropriate)
- Practical support to improve attendance and participation
- Regular check-ins with young carers, including dedicated lunchtime support groups, to provide a safe space for peer connection, emotional support, and ongoing monitoring of wellbeing.

- Liaison with teaching staff to address barriers to learning
- Monitoring attendance, wellbeing, and progress through school data
- Inclusion of young carers' needs in individual pupil plans
- Support to improve communication with families
- The Young Carers Leads will meet with young carers regularly and liaise with teachers regarding attendance, wellbeing and any barriers to learning.
- Opportunities for young carers to speak privately with a trusted adult
- Schools will take an active role in seeking to identify and provide support to hidden young carers
- Staff members treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- The school will ensure relevant information regarding a young carer's support needs is shared appropriately during periods of transition, including transfer to secondary school, with parental consent where appropriate.

Pupils Voice

Young carers will be encouraged to contribute their views regarding the support they receive and the development of school provision for young carers.

Working with Families

We work in partnership with families in a supportive and respectful manner, encouraging open communication while maintaining confidentiality.

Working with External Agencies

The school will work with relevant services, including:

- Local young carers' organisations
- Social care services
- Health professionals
- Early Help services

Safeguarding

If a young carer is at risk of harm or their caring responsibilities are inappropriate, safeguarding procedures will be followed in line with the school's Child Protection Policy.

Confidentiality

Information regarding young carers will be treated sensitively and shared only with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis. Information will be processed in accordance with UK GDPR, Data Protection legislation and safeguarding requirements.

Monitoring and Review

- The Young Carers Lead will continually monitor and review practice to ensure this policy is implemented correctly.
- The Inclusion team will continually monitor the wellbeing and academic support in place for each child so they reach their full potential.

- Staff will all be aware of other relevant school policies which will be implemented alongside this policy.
- This policy will be reviewed by the governing body on an annual basis.
- Most young carers will meet the definition of a 'child in need' under the Children Act 2004 and may be entitled to an assessment from Children's Services. In the event of any young carers being considered to be at risk of significant harm, the school's child protection procedures should be followed.

Legislation and Guidance

Children Act 1989

Some young carers may meet the definition of a Child in Need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and may be entitled to an assessment and support from Children's Services.

Equality Act 2010

Young carers are protected under the Equality Act 2010 through their association with a disabled person and must not experience discrimination as a result of that association.

Children and Families Act 2014

The Act has a section on Young Carers' and, in conjunction with the adults focused Care Act, seeks to make sure that Young Carers get the support they need. Local authorities are expected to try and identify Young Carers so they can be offered support

Policy Details

Newtown C of E Primary School has appointed three Young Carers Leads:

- Mrs E Howlett (Headteacher)
- Miss R Claridge (ELSA and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Mrs S Whittle (Home School Welfare Manager and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Young Carers Governor: Mr R Swain