



# Hanham Woods Academy

## Young Carers Policy

February 2025

For information and guidance and incorporating the Academy's vision and core values. It forms part of the portfolio of policies designed to keep students safe, happy and cared for.

Status: Approved

### HWA YOUNG CARERS POLICY

<b>Policy Title</b>	Young Carers Policy
<b>Function</b>	For information and guidance and incorporating the Academy's vision and core values. It forms part of the portfolio of policies designed to keep students safe, happy and cared for.
<b>Status</b>	Noted by AC - 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<b>Audience</b>	Students, Parents, Councillors, Principal, Teachers, Support Staff, Local Authority
<b>Ownership / Implementation</b>	The Principal and the Academy Council have overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy is implemented.
<b>Implementation Date</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<b>Review period</b>	Bi-Annually
<b>Last Reviewed</b>	February 2025

## **POLICY STATEMENT:**

We want children to be healthy, at the centre of everything we do so that they can make a positive contribution, have fun and enjoy growing up. We want to build a community for them that keeps them safe, supports their creativity and enables them to meet their potential.

This statement sets out our aspirations for all our students. Some children will need more support than others if they are to achieve their potential. We believe that young carers are amongst this group and we strive to ensure they are supported within the Academy and by all agencies to help them live happy, safe fulfilling lives.

## **DEFINITION:**

A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone at home. Most are caring for a parent, commonly in a single parent family, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. In some instances a young carer may care for more than one family member.

The person they look after will have one or more of:

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

## **AIM OF THE POLICY:**

The aim of this policy document is to raise the awareness among Academy staff about the needs of young carers and to support them in establishing a whole school approach to address the issues that may arise within a school setting.

The policy will provide teachers with a range of referral routes, also enabling them to provide young carers with information and advice on where to seek assistance.

## **PRINCIPLES:**

- 1.1 At Hanham Woods Academy we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home.
- 1.2 When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, he or she may need extra support to help him or her get the most out of school.
- 1.3 This policy says how we will support any student who helps to look after someone at home.

## **ACTIONS:**

- 2.1 This Academy has members of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new students know who they are and what they can do to help. These members of staff are: Miss Hannah Davies and Ms Rebecca Tushingam, Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer.

- 2.2 There is a Young Carers Support group which meets once a month – this is held twice a term.
- 2.3 We run a PSHE lesson on the challenges faced by young carers during Year 9, this is through discussing family units.
- 2.4 The Academy can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers service when support is needed. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- 2.5 The Academy complies with the Single Equalities Act by being accessible to parent/carers who have mobility and communication difficulties and involving them in consultation evenings.
- 2.6 The Academy respects young carers' right to privacy and will only share information about them and their family with people who need to know in order to help them, in line with the Academy policy on Safeguarding.
- 2.7 The Academy will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities, for example detention and extra-curricular activities, due to their caring role.
- 2.8 If necessary, the Academy will allow young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- 2.9 The Academy will track young carers as a vulnerable group and track their progress to ensure support is allocated.
- 2.10 The Academy actively involves young carers as a group and supports them on an individual basis

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