

Young Carers Policy

Opening statement

One of our school values states that “everyone is treasured and loved as a unique child of God.” We are determined that all children, whatever their circumstances, know this to be true. We are also determined to ensure that children are given the opportunity to “embrace the future with hope and confidence,” and we work hard to help individuals to flourish, whatever challenges they may face. One group of children that we carefully notice are young carers. Young carers look after someone who has a long-term physical or mental health problem, disability or a problem with drugs or alcohol. This may take the form of domestic chores, personal care, supervision, emotional support or another form of assistance. At HTPD we believe that all young people have the right to an education. If a young person looks after someone, we know that they may need additional support to help them get the most out of their education, and we aim to meet their individual needs.

Our school

- Has a designated member of staff who has special responsibility for young carers. Currently our designated lead is Lucy Cray. Please do email (lucyc@htpd.surrey.sch.uk) or speak to her in person if you would like to discuss your or your child’s circumstances. She will be happy to talk with you and co-ordinate support.
- Is sensitive towards young carers’ needs, and aims to show discretion. We respect pupils’ privacy and will only share information about their circumstances with people who need to know, in order to provide help and to ensure safety. Pupils and parents are consulted before information is shared.
- Provides both individual listening support and a support group for young carers.
- Expects pupils to attend registration and lessons on time, every school day. However, we provide reasonable flexibility on attendance if absence is due to providing emergency care. Please speak to us if this becomes an issue.
- Has links with local services providing support to families with care needs, including local young carer services.
- Provides additional learning support for young carers, and flexibility on work deadlines, as required, ensuring that any homework expectations are not an additional burden. Please speak to your child's teacher if you feel this support is needed.
- Provides access to a telephone to enable young carers to call home during breaks, if required.
- Liaises with the local authority to provide assistance for disabled parents in getting their children to school.
- Ensures that the school and its communications are accessible for parents with disabilities and health conditions (in particular with respect to parent’s evening).
- Uses the Pupil Premium to assist eligible young carers in their education, including accessing curriculum based trips.
- Will consider alternatives if pupils are unable to attend after school activities (e.g. sports clubs) due to their caring role. Please speak to us if this is an issue.

- Runs sessions on young carers in the PSHE programme for each year group, to help all pupils understand the issues, carers' rights and the support available, and create a 'carer-friendly' culture.

Review

The Governing Body of HTPD first adopted this policy in 2019. It will be reviewed biennially by the Governing Body and will be revised as often as may be required.

Date adopted: May 2021

Date last reviewed: October 2023

Date for next review: October 2025

Signed:

**Mark Sharman
Governor of Holy Trinity Junior Pewley Down Infant School
ECMS Committee Chair**