



8th January 2025

Young Carers' Policy

Present: Mrs Seymour (Headteacher) No parents attended

Who are young carers?

A young carer is a young person, under the age of 18, who has a caring responsibility. This is usually for a family member who has a disability, long-term illness.

We have a number of children at school who are registered Young Carers and have a school policy to identify the support provided by Commonswood.

As a school, we are committed to enabling young carers to access education and support. The policy aims to ensure that young carers at Commonswood are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education and other support to which they are entitled in partnership with parents/carers.

Caring role

Young carers often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. These can include:

- Practical tasks – cooking, housework, and shopping.
- Physical care – lifting or helping someone use the stairs.
- Personal care – dressing, washing, helping with toileting needs.
- Emotional support – listening, calming, being present.
- Managing the family budget, collecting benefits and prescriptions.
- Medication management.
- Looking after younger siblings.
- Helping someone communicate.

Commonswood Primary & Nursery School acknowledges that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's access to education and attainment.

Support offered to young carers at Commonswood School

This policy shows that at Commonswood School we acknowledge the potential for adverse effect on our young carers and that their education and school experience is important. We acknowledge that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education and all opportunities offered at school.

We have a designated Senior Leadership Team Lead and a Young Carers Operational Lead (Miss Dean) who will liaise with relevant colleagues, the Carers in Herts Young Carers Team, and other relevant agencies with the consent of the young carer and their family.

At Commonswood School we:

- Treat young carers in a sensitive and child centred way.
- Provide young carers with the opportunity to talk in private and do not discuss their caring role in front of their peers.
- Ensure young carers can access all available support in school and from external agencies/services as appropriate.
- Follow safeguarding procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to an inappropriate caring role.
- Promote discussion and learning
- Work with families to ensure good attendance

All young carers are entitled to an assessment and in Hertfordshire we use the Families First Assessment. The family of all identified young carers attending Commonswood School will be offered an assessment by the Young Carers Operational Lead.

We recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers and provision for young carers and their families may include (but is not limited to):

- Lunchtime homework club
- Access to a 'go to' person who will communicate with home on behalf of the child
- Access to emotional wellbeing support for young carers through Protective Behaviours, counselling, or specialist play therapy (dependant on level of need).
- Alternative communication options for parents/carers with a disability or who are housebound.
- Advice for parents where there is a difficulty getting the young carer to school.
- Access to the young carer weekly drop-in
- Access to the Fox Club after school (wrap around) provision, where needed and appropriate.
- Funded access to holiday provision (if/when available)

We regularly explain what it is to be a Young Carer to children who we invite to talk to us if they think they might meet the criteria to be a Young Carer. We also send regular reminders to parents via the school's newsletter. Parents can register their children as Young Carers via the school via senco@commonswood.herts.sch.uk Tel: (01707) 880420 or directly through young_carers@carersinherts.org.uk Tel: (01992) 586969.