# Winterbourne Earls CE Primary School
## Young Carers Policy

**Date Published: September 2026**
**Dat of next review: September 2028**

**Introduction**
Winterbourne Earls Primary School is committed to supporting Young Carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure Young Carers at Winterbourne are identified and are offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

Winterbourne Earls Primary school works alongside Wiltshire Young Carers and other support agencies to provide effective support for Young Carers registered in school.

**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, grand parent or other relative. In some instances, it is possible that a Young Carer may care for more than one family member. The person that they look after will have one or more of:

- Physical disability (which can include sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

**Caring Tasks**
A Young Carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A Young Carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with other members of the family. The caring tasks that a Young Carer has to complete can range from:

- **Nursing care** – giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility etc.
- **Personal intimate care** – washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toileting requirements
- **Emotional care** – being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person being cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting an adult with their mental health.
- **Domestic care** – doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc.
- **Financial care** – running the household, bill paying, collection of money etc.
- **Child care** – taking responsibility for younger siblings which will be in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

**Possible Effect on Education**
Winterbourne Earls Primary School acknowledges that there could be Young Carers among its pupils and that being a Young Carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a Young Carer may experience:

*Being late
*Absence due to responsibilities at home
*Difficulties concentrating in school

*Anxiety or worry in school
*Tiredness
*Lack of time for home learning activities
*Poor attainment
*Physical problems (e.g. back pain from lifting)
*False signs of maturity due to assuming adult roles
*Behavioural problems
*Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
*Isolation or embarrassed to take friends home
*Limited social skills
*Bullying
*Feeling that no one understands
*Feeling like no support is available
*Low self-esteem

It also might be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about child being taken into care, fears about their conditions being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called in to question). They may be unable to attend parents' evening.

**Support Offered**
Winterbourne Earls Primary School acknowledges that Young Carers may need extra support to ensure that they have equal access to education. We want to ensure that the message we are sharing with our Young Carers is that their education is important and one way of doing that is through this policy.

The Young Carer Lead will be the main point of contact for Young Carers in school. They will meet with the Young Carers on a regular basis. The Young Carer Lead will liaise and keep up regular communication with the relevant colleagues and agencies, ensuring that consent of the Young Carer and their parent is sought before doing so.

We will:

- Provide Young Carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and ensure that the utmost respect for their confidentiality is at the forefront of these discussions (e.g. not discussing their situation in front of their peers)
- Appreciate that Young Carers may not want to discuss their home situation and that in order to discuss it they will need to be made to feel safe and comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and treated with the utmost respect at all times
- Treat Young Carers in a sensitive and child-centred way
- Ensure Young Carers can access all available support services in school, especially pastoral and ELSA support
- Follow child protection and Safeguarding procedures regarding any Young Carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
- Promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring
- Provide staff access to information and training to enable them to recognise indications that a child has a caring responsibility at home
- Refer the child to Wiltshire Young Carers for additional support if and when appropriate
- Identify Young Carers as a vulnerable group and log status on SIMS

- Discuss Young Carers as a vulnerable group at termly Pupil Progress meetings.

In addition, Winterbourne Earls Primary School will recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers in our school community. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Access a telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to phone home
- Negotiable deadlines for home learning (when needed)
- Arrangements for school work to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis). Any approved absence for a young carer will be will time limited (DfES 2006)
- Access for parents with impaired mobility
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school.

**Succession Planning**
If the Young Carer Lead leaves a new lead will be appointed within one term.

**Further Information**
Further information can be found at:

https://carersupportwiltshire.co.uk/young-carers/

Care Support Wiltshire
Independent Living Centre,
St George's Road
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