

Young Carers Policy

Date: January 2023

Review date: January 2026

Lime Trust

Lime Trust is founded upon four principles: Leadership, Innovation, Motivation and Excellence. It creates a sustainable group of exceptional, high-performing schools that improve life chances, and are trusted and respected in their communities. Lime Trust provides a high-quality education for pupils through school-to-school collaboration, Trust direction, high challenge and support.

Along with our principles, Lime Trust has core values that are demonstrated and upheld by our pupils, employees and stakeholders. Respect for all underlines our seven core values:

Respect
Equity
Self-worth
Partnership
Enjoyment
Communication (a voice for all)
Trust

Purpose

At Lime Academy Parnwell School we believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their situation at home. When a young person has a caring responsibility they may need extra support to help them get the most out of school. We define a Young Carer as a young person who has caring responsibilities for a family member with a disability, health condition or substance misuse issue. Young carers may provide physical care, personal care, help with medication or practical tasks, or provide emotional support. This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home. We are working in conjunction with the Young Carers Project.

Application of the policy

Our School:

- has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and informs all new students who the member of staff is and what they can do to help. They are known as the Young carers lead.
- will provide training and information to staff members and parents/carers on how to identify young carers and signpost them to the relevant support.
- will proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face as well as the support that is available (for example during form/tutor time, assemblies, PSHE sessions).
- will provide a safe and confidential space for peer support groups, overseen by a member of staff, allowing young carers in the school to provide emotional support to each other regarding their caring role.
- makes referrals to the Young Carers Project where appropriate and with the family and young person's permission.
- welcomes visits from the Young Carers Project to work with pupils referred for support so they can meet in a safe setting for 1:1 support sessions.
- will provide information on our support for young carers on our website for current and

prospective pupils and parents.

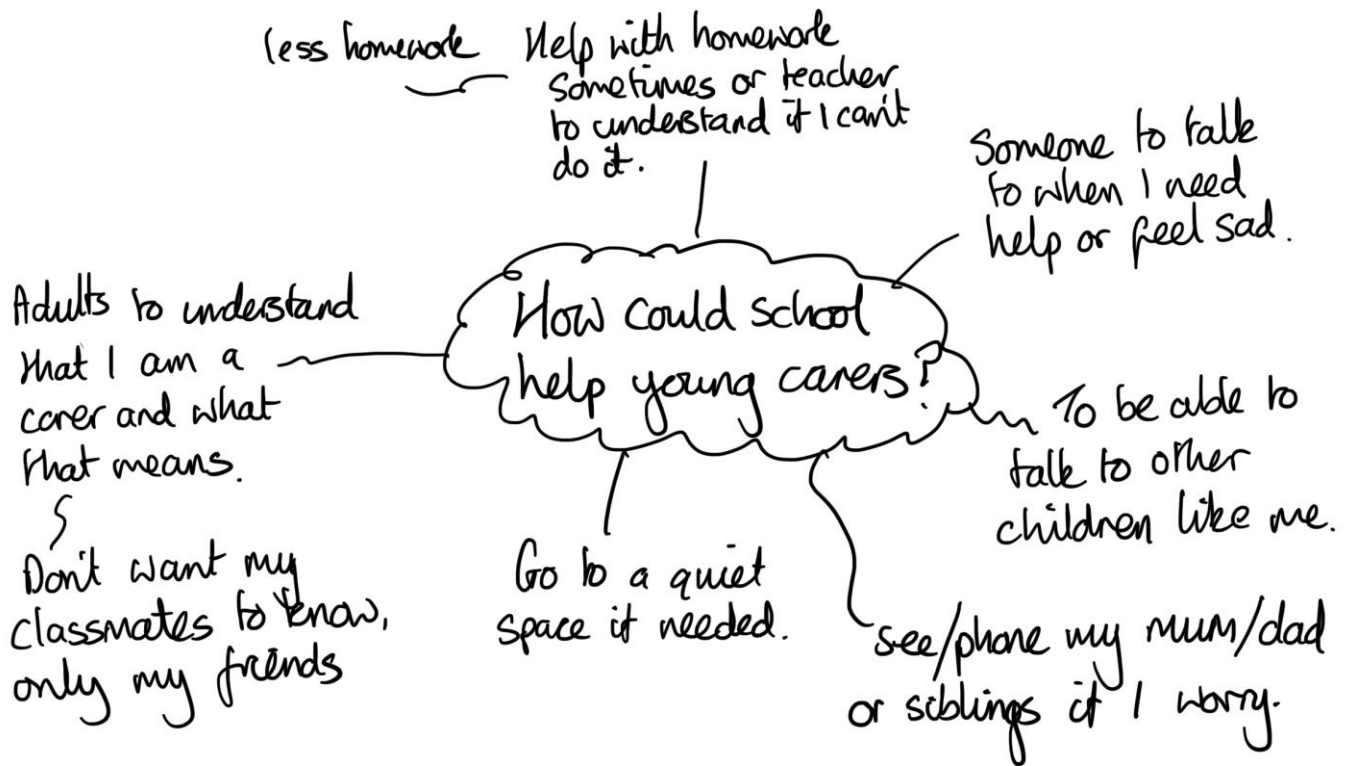
- will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend extra-curricular activities due to their caring role.
- will seek to provide alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend school because of their caring commitment.
- will allow young carers access to their mobiles to contact home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- we will consider any other reasonable adjustments that may need to be made to ensure the young carer is able to access their education.
- has information about young carers available at prospective open days, and proactively asks about caring responsibilities during the admissions process.
- is physically accessible and has accessible information available to parents who have mobility or communication difficulties.
- will not make assumptions about family members with disabilities, mental and physical health conditions or substance misuse issues, or label young people and their families.
- respects the young person’s right to privacy and only shares information on them and their family with people who need to know. Their home situation and caring role will not be discussed in front of their peers.
- treats young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality. The young person’s caring role is acknowledged and respected.
- includes young carers in any existing transition package so that relevant support is highlighted to the young person.

How do Lime Trust schools identify young carers?

Appendices show how our school identifies young carers and the following codes will be used.

Code	Young carer indicator
N	Not declared
P	Identified as a young carer by a parent or guardian
S	Identified as a young carer by school

Once young carers have been identified, complete one of the example activities below according to school context and insert here.



Appendix 1 – Young Carer’s questionnaire - based on Multi-dimensional activity of caring activities (MACA-18) assessment

Name..... Date

Below are some jobs that young carers do to help. Think about the help you have provided over the last month. Please read each one and put a tick in the box to show how often you have done each of the jobs in the last month. Thank you

		Never	Some of the time	A lot of the time
1.	Clean your own bedroom			
2.	Clean other rooms			
3.	Wash up dishes or put dishes in a dishwasher			
4.	Decorate rooms			
5.	Take responsibility for shopping for food			
6.	Help with lifting or carrying heavy things			
7.	Help with financial matters such as dealing with bills, banking money, collecting benefits			
8.	Work part time to bring money in			
9.	Interpret, sign or use another communication system for the person you care for			
10.	Help the person you care for to dress or undress			
11.	Help the person you care for to have a wash			
12.	Help the person you care for to have a bath or shower			
13.	Keep the person you care for company e.g. sitting with them, reading to them, talking to them			
14.	Keep an eye on the person you care for to make sure they are alright			
15.	Take the person you care for out e.g. for a walk or to see friends or relatives			
16.	Take brothers or sisters to school			
17.	Look after brothers or sisters whilst another adult is near by			
18.	Look after brothers or sisters on your own			

Appendix 2 - How to use the Young Carers questionnaire

Care has been taken to ensure that the wording is appropriate for most children and young people so that they will be able to complete Young Carers Questionnaire by themselves. Although it may be appropriate sometimes to help with explanations, we recommend that children and young people are given the opportunity to complete the questionnaire themselves whenever possible. When it is necessary to provide explanations, this should be carried out by the professional involved. We do not recommend that the questionnaire is completed in the presence of the person who is being supported. Young carers' responses on the questionnaire should always be treated in confidence and used in line with an appropriate professional Code of Ethics and within an organisation's child protection and confidentiality policies.

Scoring for the questionnaire

For the young carers questionnaire each of the items are rated on a 3-point scale, 'Never', 'Some of the time', and 'A lot of the time'.

For scoring purposes:

Response category	Rating
Never	0
Some of the time	1
A lot of the time	2

Overall Score of Caring Activity

The Young Carers Questionnaire can be used to provide an overall summary score (index) of caring activity by totalling all 18 items. The lowest the young person can score is 0 and the highest the young person can score is 36. For example, if the young person ticks 'never' for each of the 18 items, they would get a total score of 0 but if they ticked 'a lot of the time' for each of the items, they would get a score of 36. Of course, most children and young people will score somewhere in between these two extremes. The average score is around 14.

Interpretation of scores on the Young Carers questionnaire

Higher scores indicate greater levels of caring activity. The following categories are useful:

0	No caring activity record
1-9	Low amount of caring activity
10-13	Moderate amount of caring activity
14-17	High amount of caring activity
18 and above	Very high amount of caring activity

All learners who score 10 and above, will be identified as a young carer.