YOUNG CARERS POLICY

2026- 2027

Document Type:	Colleague Responsible:	Date:	Next Review:
School	SHA	October 2026	October 2027
Approved By Local Governing Body			

Equality Statement

Wrotham School strongly promotes equality of opportunity under all circumstances and in all contexts. We actively seek to ensure that all members of our community and all visitors to the school are treated equally. This includes actively ensuring that discrimination or inequality of any kind does not occur based on the following:

- Race
- Nationality
- Gender (including gender questioning)
- Sexual Orientation
- Disability
- Age
- Mental Health

Discrimination and inequality can be experienced in the following ways, not exclusively:

- Inappropriate or offensive language and terminology
- Cultural misrepresentation
- Violence/ physical harm
- Bullying
- Online Abuse
- Disadvantage in all aspects of progress, care and opportunity.

When inequality or discrimination is seen or reported the school will strongly challenge and will work to resolve the issue. All concerns will be taken seriously and investigated fully and without prejudice.

This policy is updated annually by the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Young Carers and reviewed by the Governing body for approval.

Compliance

This report has been written with reference to:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026)
- The Children and Families Act (2014)
- The Children Act (1989)
- The Care Act (2014)
- Equalities Act (2010)

- The Education Act (2002)
- The Young Carers (Needs Assessments Regulations) (2015)
- DfE Guidance (2016) "Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions"
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- In Kent, specialist support for young carers is commissioned by KCC and delivered through Kent Young Carers (Imago), providing information, advice, assessments, respite activities, and educational support.

Policy Statement

Wrotham School recognises that many children and young people provide care, support, or supervision for a family member who has an illness, disability, mental health condition, or substance misuse issue. These pupils are known as young carers.

We understand that being a young carer can significantly impact a pupil's education, attendance, wellbeing, and life opportunities. Wrotham School is committed to identifying and supporting young carers in accordance with Kent County Council (KCC) Young Carers procedures, the Children and Families Act 2014, the Care Act 2014, and the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP).

Our aim is that all young carers at Wrotham School are:

- Identified early and not left hidden.
- Listened to, valued, and supported.
- Enabled to attend, enjoy, and achieve at school on the same basis as their peers.
- Safeguarded and supported through effective multi-agency partnership working.

Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is a person under 18 who provides care, assistance, or supervision to a family member (including siblings) who has a long-term illness, disability, mental health difficulty, or drug/alcohol dependency.

Caring responsibilities may include practical tasks, emotional support, household management, intimate care, or childcare for siblings. Some pupils may not identify themselves as carers, yet their responsibilities impact on their education and wellbeing.

Caring Responsibilities and Their Impact

Young Carers may have whole or shared responsibility for looking after a sibling, parent, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a Young Carer may care for more than one family member and/or may have a disability themselves.

A Young Carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development.

The caring tasks that a Young Carer has to deal with can range from:

- Nursing Care – giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility etc.
- Personal intimate care – washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements.
- Emotional care – being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.
- Domestic care – doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning and laundry etc. Financial care – running the household, bill paying, benefit collection etc.
- Childcare – taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

Wrotham Secondary School acknowledges that there are Young Carers among its pupils, and that being a Young Carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Due to their responsibilities at home, a Young Carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self-esteem.

It also might be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about child being taken into Local Authority Care, fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called into question). They may be unable to attend Parents' evenings or

additional meetings.

Aims

Wrotham School will:

1. Identify young carers early.
2. Assess how caring responsibilities impact attendance, progress, and wellbeing.
3. Offer appropriate in-school pastoral and academic support.
4. Refer and signpost to Kent Young Carers (Imago) and other agencies where necessary.
5. Raise awareness among staff, pupils, and families.
6. Monitor outcomes and continually improve practice.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body	Approves and monitors policy and receives annual anonymised reports
Headteacher – Mrs L. Abbott	Ensures adequate resourcing and leadership support
Assistant Headteacher (Young Carers): Mrs S. Hann	Oversees implementation and outcomes.
Young Carers Lead: Mrs C. Mann	Main contacts, maintain confidential register, coordinate support, liaise with external agencies.
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Oversees safeguarding and multi-agency work.
All Staff	Identify possible young carers, report concerns, and apply agreed adjustments

Identification of Young Carers

Wrotham School identifies young carers through:

- Transition and Admissions processes.
- Staff awareness training.
- Self and peer identification routes.
- Parental identification
- Partnership with Kent Young Carers, health, and social care.
- Whole-school awareness through PSHE, assemblies, and tutor time.

Support for Young Carers at Wrotham School

Wrotham Secondary School will:

- Provide Young Carers with opportunities to speak to someone in privately and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Appreciate that Young Carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable.
- The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Treat Young Carers in a sensitive and child centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensure Young Carers can access all available support services in school.
- Follow child protection 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 caring responsibility.

In addition, Wrotham Secondary School will recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to telephone home.
- Negotiable deadlines for coursework and homework (when needed).
- Access to homework clubs (and where these are available)
- Arrangements for schoolwork to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis).
- Any approved absence for a Young Carer will be 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
- Young Carers enrichment opportunities such as gardening, picnics, mentoring.

Referrals and Multi-Agency Working

Where a pupil needs additional support:

1. Discussion with pupil and family.
2. Referral to Kent Young Carers (Imago).
3. Liaison with Early Help, health, and social services.

If safeguarding concerns arise, the DSL will act immediately following KSCMP procedures.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

Information is shared sensitively on a need-to-know basis, respecting pupils' wishes unless safeguarding concerns arise. All data handled in line with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Staff Training and Awareness

Annual staff training covers identification and support of young carers. Awareness materials are displayed across school and refreshed regularly.

Pupil and Parent Participation

Young carers and families are involved in shaping and reviewing support. Communication is inclusive and accessible.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Data on young carers (numbers, attendance, wellbeing, attainment) will be reviewed annually by the Young Carers Lead and Assistant Headteacher and reported to the Governing Body.

Linked Policies

This policy should be read alongside Safeguarding, Attendance, SEND, Behaviour, Equality, and Data Protection policies.

Information for Parents

Imago

Further information can be found at:
IMAGO – KENT YOUNG CARERS
John Spare House
17-19 Monson Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent.
TN1 1LS
T: 01892 530330
www.imago.community