

Blacon High School
Young Carers Policy November 2026

Commitment

Blacon High School's commitment to young carers is to support the emotional and academic needs of young carers to achieve in their education and to aspire in education as people regardless of complexities of needs and home. We are learning with, from and for others in our work and this policy explains how we will live up to our commitment.

We will contact Cheshire Young Carers, Northern Lights Business park, Rossfield Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 3AW, 0151 356 3176, www.cheshireyoungcarers.org. info@cheshireyoungcarers.com when parents/carers give permission for an assessment to be carried out to support their child's respite. (Children do not need to be accessing TAF support for this to be put in place.)

We will contact Carers Trust 4 All, Rossmore Business Village, CH65 3EY, 03333231990, www.carerstrust4all.org.uk, cheshirewest@carerstrust4all.org.uk, when we need support for children who are working at Team Around the Family Level or above.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person, under the age of 18, living with or carrying out a significant physical or emotional caring role and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be taken by an adult.
They can be caring for any of the following:

- Grandparent, Parent or sibling suffering from a mental illness
- Grandparent, Parent or sibling with a physical disability
- Grandparent, Parent or sibling with substance misuse problems
- Grandparent, Parent or sibling with learning disabilities
- Grandparent, Parent or sibling with a terminal illness

Young Carers and the effects on their education

Being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of 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
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger and frustration)
- 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
- Lack of voice

Support offered

At Blacon High School, we ensure that the following support is available for all young carers within the school.

- Blacon High School has an identified Young Carers Representative and this is Mrs Karen Appleby. In Mrs Appleby's absence, Mr Stephen Webster and Mrs Shelley Macintosh will assume this role.
- All staff are made aware of who their young carers representative is and the reporting/referral process to this person.
- The school has an effective internal reporting system between all staff and the Young Carers representative via the CPOMS system.
- Any child/young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at the school will be referred to the appropriate services.
- School has a procedure for identifying young carers on enrolment into the school.
- When a young carer leaves the school, either to enter high school or for any other reasons details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school with consent from the family.
- School will be flexible with late attendance due to a caring role (where this is a regular occurrence provision will be put into place to enable the young carer to attend regularly and on time)
- Specific input about young carers in assemblies and lessons will help to reduce stigma, prevent bullying and will cover young carers issues resulting in a fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for issues surrounding illness, disability and caring. These will be linked to the school SEAL resources.
- The school will be flexible with regards to young carers and their issues.
- School will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- School appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- School will ensure young carers can access all available support services.
- School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- School will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime, for young carers to call home.
- School will be negotiable with deadlines for homework.
- Children will be supported with school work if and when there is a crisis at home.
- School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility.
- School will provide alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or are housebound; this will include alternative communication options for parents' evenings.
- Appropriate provisions will be put into place for young carers whose parents do not drive due to their illness or disability. (Following safeguarding procedures at all times).
- School will always report any cases of a child/young person who may be carrying out an inappropriate caring role, which is causing immediate concern for their safety.

This policy will be reviewed annually, and we will review our Young Carers register termly.

BLACON HIGH SCHOOL

ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Blacon High School

Young Carers Enrolment Questionnaire

This school understands that some young people maybe living with someone with an illness or disability. We have a commitment to provide equal opportunities for all young people and this includes young carers.

Does anyone in the family home have any of the following? (Please Tick)

Physically Disability

Mental Illness

Substance Misuse

Learning Disability

If so please provide brief details of which family members

Does your child carry out any of the following tasks on a regular basis within the home?
(Please Tick)

Looking after younger siblings

Cooking

Shopping

Cleaning

Emotional Support

Paying bills

Any other care related tasks

May we shared this information with Young Carers so that an assessment can be carried out?

Name of parent/carer: _____

Signature of parent/carer: _____

Date: _____