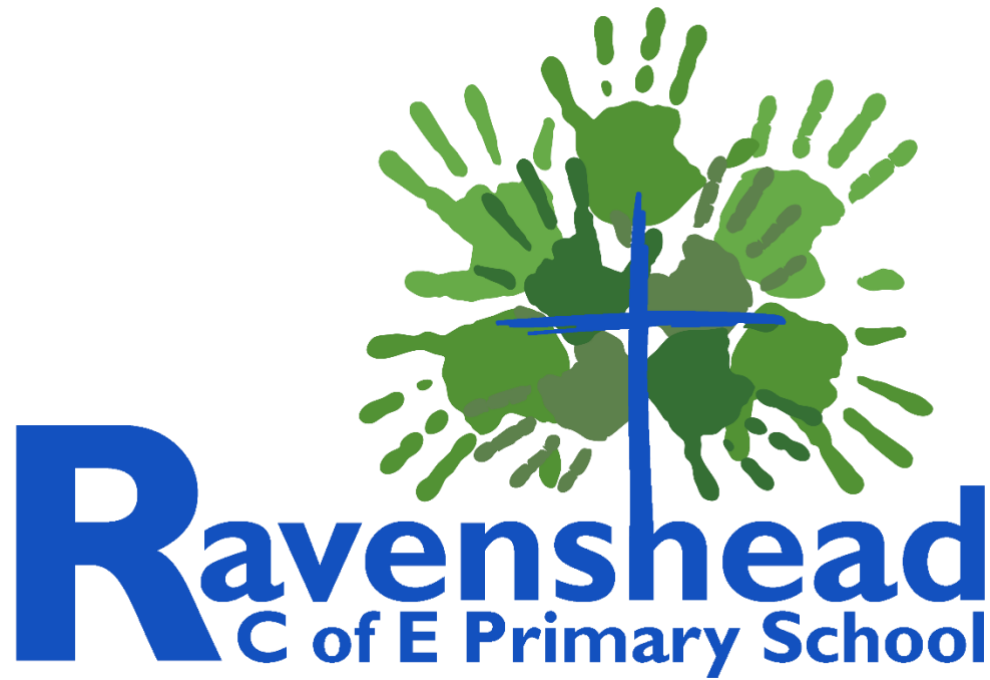




YOUNG CARERS PROVISION POLICY

This policy was last reviewed: October, 2025

This policy will be reviewed: October, 2026

Our School Vision

Our school vision is based on the theme of '***Taking Care***'. We strive to encourage our children, staff and wider community to 'take care' of one another through the core Christian Values of:

Kindness, Hope, Courage and Respect.

Our vision is inspired by the words in Corinthians:

"Let love and kindness be the motivation behind all that you do."

(1 Corinthians 16.14)

Ravenshead C of E Primary School is committed to valuing diversity and to equality of opportunity. In biblical tradition, children in particular are seen to hold a special place in the priorities of God. Furthermore, we hold to the foundational belief that all people are created in God's image and are intrinsically valuable. Everyone should be treated as fundamentally precious, irrespective of behaviour, achievements or potential.

Therefore, we aim to create and promote an environment in which pupils, parents/carers and staff are treated fairly and with respect and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities. The school's biblical foundation provides a model of Christian community described as the 'body of Christ', in which everyone has a part to play, and everyone without exception has God-given gifts which are to be used for the benefit of others.

Aim

At Ravenshead C of E Primary School, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education regardless of what is happening at home. When a child looks after someone in their family with a history of long term physical or mental health illness, a disability, alcohol abuse or substance abuse, the young person may need some extra support to help them get the most out of school.

This Young Carers' policy will set out how we will help any pupil who looks after someone at home.

Defining a Young Carer.

A Young Carer is someone between 5-17 years of age who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem. Caring can involve physical or emotional care or taking responsibility for someone's safety or wellbeing. The level of responsibility assumed by a Young Carer is often disproportionate to their age and at a level beyond simply 'helping out' with jobs at home, which is a normal part of growing up. Young carers can be primary

carers, such as caring for a parent, or a secondary carer, such as helping to care for a sibling.

Identifying a Young Carer

Unless the school is advised about a student's home circumstances, Young Carers risk first being identified as a result of negative aspects of their behaviour or work. Some Young Carers worry about bullying or interference in their family life and may seek to conceal their role from their peers and from teachers.

Some of the warning signs that might indicate that a pupil has unrecognised responsibilities are:

- Regular lateness or unauthorised absence, possibly increasing.
- Tiredness in school.
- Erratic response to homework with incomplete, late or non-compliance to set tasks.
- Lack of concentration, anxiety or worry.
- Under-achievement.
- Behavioural problems, especially inappropriate responses possibly resulting from anger or frustration.
- Few or no peer friendships but possibly with a good relationship with adults and presenting as very mature for their age.
- Victim of bullying, perhaps linked to a family member's disability or state of health, e.g. substance misuse problem or due to Young Carer not being perceived by peers as dressing in the latest fashion.
- Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities, especially after school.
- Apparent parental disinterest due to non-attendance at parent's meetings.

The above may be indicators of a range of problems, some not associated with a child having a caring role at home. However, in dealing with any child or young person exhibiting any of the above signs, staff should consider asking the child or young person if they are helping to look after someone at home. Staff should also discuss their related concerns with the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Head of Inclusion. Concerns about a child or young person who may be considered as a yet unidentified young carer should be reported to the Assistant Head of Inclusion.

New information about identified young carers should also be passed to the Senior Leadership Team and the school's Young Carers Champion –Mrs Richardson.

It is preferable to start from a positive base. Therefore, our enrolment process will seek sensitively to establish if:

- The child or young person has additional support needs which may include having parents/relatives with disabilities or long-term physical or mental health problems.
- The child or young person has a responsibility for looking after that person over and beyond normal, interpersonal relationships within a caring family setting.
- The family is in contact with a support service that could help reduce their reliance on the pupil.

Information gained as a result of this process will be held securely and made available in the first instance to the designated member of school staff with responsibilities for young carers.

While we will respect the right to privacy, we would wish to establish if the family is in contact with a support service that could help reduce their reliance on the child or young person. We will only share information about young carers and their families with people who need to know in order to be able to help. Before sharing information with anyone else, we will seek consent from the young carer or, if they are not able to understand, from a parent/carer.

School support for identified Young Carers

- A member of staff in the school will lead on our support work for young carers. This member of staff will be the point of contact for young carers and their families and will liaise with young carers' services. The name of the Young Carers Champions (including Assistant Head of Inclusion) will be made available on the website and communicated to parents/carers regularly.
- Awareness raising session will take place including staff training and, if appropriate, assemblies for children and additional RSHE sessions.
- School staff will talk to young carers in private and not in front of their friends unless the young carer asks for a friend to be present.
- When needed, schools will negotiate deadlines for homework.
- When absence notes are not produced because of the known home circumstances of the young carer, arrangements are agreed for appropriately coding and recording absences.
- Schools will liaise with support services to ensure that families can be advised where additional help may be available to them.
- If a parent/carer is unable to travel to parents' meetings due to family circumstances, school staff will try to make alternative arrangements – for example a phone call or online meeting. The young carer or parent may request this.
- Schools will provide advice about Tu Vida the Nottinghamshire Young Carers Hub and also the Nottinghamshire Carers Service.

- School staff and services will be available for any child/young person, parent or family member who wishes to discuss their family circumstances so that we can help the child/young person in achieving their potential.