



# Young Carers Policy

Approved by Governors March 2025

To be reviewed at least every three years

Review Date March 2028

Governor print \_\_\_\_\_

Governor signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Young Carers Policy

Member of Staff Responsible for Young Carers: Lucy Cutler, Pastoral Manager

At Joseph Turner we believe that all children have the right to an education regardless of their home life circumstances. This policy aims to ensure young carers at our school are identified and offered appropriate support to access education to ensure they achieve their potential and go on to have successful futures without placing their education at risk due to their caring responsibilities.

### What is a Young Carer?

Young Carers are children and young people under the age of 18 whose lives are restricted by the need to take responsibility for a person who is either:

- Chronically ill
- Experiencing mental illness
- Alcohol and/or drug misuser
- Physically disabled
- Is elderly
- Experiencing HIV/AIDS

We acknowledge that helping out around the house is a part of growing up, but we are aware that young carers regularly carry out caring tasks and take on responsibilities that are inappropriate for their age. For example:

- Administering medication
- Paying bills
- Shopping
- Personal care such as bathing and toileting
- Strenuous physical tasks such as lifting;
- Maintaining the family budget
- Offering precociously mature, emotional support to the adult

We also acknowledge that there are likely to be young carers within our school, and that being a young carer can have an impact on a young person's access to education and attainment.

Due to young carers responsibilities at home, a young carer might:

- Have punctuality issues or poor school attendance
- Decline in academic achievement
- Not complete homework
- Not attend out of school activities or school trips
- Lack motivation
- Have back problems, aches and pains patterns of being generally unwell
- Appear withdrawn, isolated from peers, have difficulties socialising
- Show, anxiety, depression, anger, self-harming behaviour
- Have poor concentration (due to worrying about the person who is cared for)
- Have poor home/ school relationship due to lack of communication

- Have parents who do not attend parents evening
- Have false signs of maturity, assuming an adult role in social situations or have difficulty enjoying childhood activities

It also might be difficult to engage their parents due to fears about their child/ren being taken into care, fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being questioned.

### Support

The designated member of staff for Young Carers at Joseph Turner Primary School is Mrs Cutler. Mrs Cutler will liaise with relevant colleagues, Sandwell Young Carers and other agencies with the consent of the young carer and their parents/carers. All pupils will be made aware of the designated person for young carers.

Joseph Turner Primary School will:

- Have annual assemblies carried out by Sandwell Young Carers organisation to share information with pupils
- Be sensitive towards young carers needs
- Provide young carers with the opportunity to talk with the designated person in private
- Give information to the young carer about support that is available
- Ensure members of the pastoral team partake in annual awareness/training
- Give young carers access to use of the telephone during breaks to phone home
- Negotiate deadlines for homework when needed
- Arrange for school work to be sent home in a crisis
- Provide access for parents/carers with impaired mobility (disabled toilet and parking facilities)
- Provide alternative communication options for parents/carers who are sensory impaired or housebound
- Provide advice to parents/carers if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school
- Display Sandwell Young Carers information posters on school grounds
- Have a direct link to the Sandwell Young Carers website [www.sandwellyc.org.uk](http://www.sandwellyc.org.uk)

### Identifying Young Carers

To help us to identify pupils that are young carers we have added a question to our admissions paperwork which allows us to put the right support in place straight away.

#### **SECTION E - Additional Information**

Does your child care for a sibling or adult that lives within the family household?

YES	NO
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If you have ticked yes, for whom do they take on the caring role for and why?

Please provide details of any additional information we need to be aware of in the box below: