



The Fernwood School

High Achievement with Care & Discipline for All"

YOUNG CARER POLICY

This policy will be monitored regularly and evaluated so that it remains responsive to current issues. This will be co-ordinated by the Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral.

Approved: March 2024
Next review: March 2025
Status: Non-Statutory



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Intent Statement

The Fernwood School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, we want to demonstrate that young carers' education is important to us and that we will support them both academically and emotionally so they can thrive in school.

Aims

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students
- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

Strategies

- To include space on school application forms for parents to declare:
 - Whether or not their child is a young carer
 - Whether or not their child is registered as a young carer
- To ensure that all relevant school staff receive training around how to identify and support young carers
- To create a young carer, register accessible to all relevant members of staff
- Mr S Deadman-Corsie was appointed as the governor who will be responsible for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to young carers
- To appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision
- To monitor the progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary



- 👂 To monitor the attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- 👂 To make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case-by-case basis regarding issues such as lateness to school, late home learning and poor attendance
- 👂 To ensure that young carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary
- 👂 To raise awareness of young carers and develop a culture of respect for young carers among the student community and also to encourage young carers to come forwards and make themselves known by delivering student assemblies and Personal Development lessons
- 👂 To support young carers to attend extra-curricular opportunities
- 👂 To ensure that young carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the school provision for young carers
- 👂 To offer a programme of careers advice and guidance and, where possible, work experience placements
- 👂 To maintain and regularly review our young carer's policy, this will be reviewed annually
- 👂 To ensure the Young Carer Lead and Young Carer Champions liaise with relevant colleagues and other relevant agencies regarding their caring responsibilities, with the consent of the young carer. All students will be made aware of who these staff members are
- 👂 To add any identified pupil to the vulnerable students' list
- 👂 The school will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and staff will not discuss their situation in front of their peers
- 👂 The 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
- 👂 The school will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality unless there is a safeguarding concern. Then, we would only discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or one of the Deputy Safeguarding Leads
- 👂 The school will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school
- 👂 The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
- 👂 The school recognises 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 phone home
 - 👂 Negotiable deadlines for home learning/coursework (when appropriate or needed)



- ✿ Access to home learning clubs
- ✿ Identifying support for them and their family to enable them to attend school trips and educational activities
- ✿ 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
- ✿ Access to school for wider support i.e. uniform

The Fernwood School Key Staff

Young Carer Lead



Mrs Cannon – Assistant Headteacher

Young Carer Champions



Mrs Kwasny – Pastoral Leader



Mrs Young – Music Teacher



Mrs Lawson – Learning Support Assistant



Mrs Ludlow Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator +Teacher of Maths



Miss Cockram – 1:1 Personal Care Assistant



Examples of whole-school models of support for young carers

Example A – Taken from ‘Supporting Young Carers: A resource for schools’; Carers Trust, The Children’s Society, www.youngcarers.info

