



## **Young Carers' Policy**

March 2026

At Beechcroft Infants' School we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

We acknowledge that there are Young Carers among our pupils, and that being a Young Carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education.

We have developed our Young Carers' Policy so that we will be able to relieve some of the worries which Young Carers may have about home and their schoolwork and show that we believe Young Carers' education is important.

### **Who are Young Carers?**

Young Carers are children and young people whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. They are carrying out tasks and responsibilities which are additional to those appropriate for their age. The person they look after may have one or more of the following:

- Physical disability
- Mental health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Long-term illness

The person they care for may be a parent, sibling, grandparent or other member of the household and the care they give may be physical and/or emotional. A Young Carer may also be a secondary carer, where their adult is responsible for looking after a family member on a regular basis.

Young Carers' responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (e.g. bathing, dressing, feeding)
- Giving or prompting medication/injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Looking after younger siblings
- Budgeting and paying bills

Young Carers can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life is often restricted with few opportunities for fun and after school activities. Also they may have to be ready to adapt to changes quickly in their day, depending on circumstances.

**Factors which might indicate that a young person is a Young Carer include:**

- Illness or disability in the family
- Being late or absent (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and often tired
- Academic performance below potential
- Homework often uncompleted
- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- Not making use of out of school activities
- Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a safe environment
- Behavioural problems
- Limited contact with school by parents
- Being bullied

If we suspect that a pupil is a Young Carer, we will be sensitive when we approach them about this, as we appreciate, they may not want their peers to know. Before passing this information on to relevant colleagues we will obtain the consent of the Young Carer (or parent as we are an Infant School).

### **Support Offered**

As a school we will:

- Designate a member of staff with specific responsibilities for Young Carers. Our school Young Carer lead is **Mrs Rutherford**
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the needs of Young Carers and have access to the appropriate information regarding the support that is available
- Give information to the young person (or parent, as we are an Infant School) about Young Carers and what information and support is available
- Liaise with appropriate agencies i.e. Swindon Young Carers
- Consider alternatives and be flexible when responding to the needs of Young Carers (e.g. an awareness of attendance and punctuality being affected by caring responsibilities)
- Provide opportunities to share concerns relating to their caring responsibilities with a chosen adult
- Be aware of the child's difficulties in attending trips out of school hours or clubs due to caring responsibilities within the family and support where possible
- Address issues around disability, mental health and Young Carers in PSHE lessons
- Ensure parents can access school for parent meetings etc and if this is not possible, consider how links can be made with home
- Consider how information on pupils' pastoral needs can be effectively passed between KS1 and KS2 phases
- Include mechanisms for effective inter-agency work to support Young Carers
- Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of policy and support

**Approved by the Governing Body: March 2026**