



Newlands CofE School Federation

A partnership of Shere and Clandon Schools



Young Carers Policy

Introduction:

At the Newlands Federation we believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their situation at home. When a young person has a caring responsibility, they may need extra support to help them get the most out of school.

We define a Young Carer as a young person who has caring responsibilities for a family member with a disability, health condition or substance misuse issue. Young carers may provide physical care, personal care, help with medication or practical tasks, or provide emotional support.

This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home. We will work in partnership with Surrey Young Carers and other local services to ensure support is coordinated.

Our Schools:

- Have a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and informs all children who the member of staff is and what they can do to help.
- Will provide training and information to staff members on how to identify young carers and signpost them to the relevant support.
- Will proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face as well as the support that is available.
- Will provide a safe and confidential space for peer support groups, overseen by a member of nurture staff, allowing young carers in the school to provide emotional support to each other regarding their caring role.
- Makes referrals to the Surrey Young Carers and other services where appropriate and with the family and young person's permission.
- Welcomes visits from Surrey Young Carers to work with pupils referred for support so they can meet in a safe setting for 1:1 support sessions.
- Will provide information on our support for young carers on our websites for current and prospective pupils and parents.

- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend extra-curricular activities due to their caring role.
- Have information about young carers available at prospective open days, and proactively asks about caring responsibilities during the admissions process.
- Will not make assumptions about family members with disabilities, mental and physical health conditions or substance misuse issues, or label young people and their families.
- Respect the young person's right to privacy and only share information with people who need to know. Their home situation and caring role will not be discussed in front of their peers.
- Treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centered way, upholding confidentiality. The young person's caring role is acknowledged and respected.
- Include young carers in any existing transition package so that relevant support is highlighted to the young person.

The Governing Body first adopted this policy in May 2024. It will be reviewed annually as necessary.

The Safeguarding Committee is responsible for the review of this policy.

Date of last review: Summer 2024

Date for next review: Summer 2025