



Newlands CofE School Federation

A partnership of Shere and Clandon Schools

Young Carers Policy

Introduction

At the Newlands CofE School Federation, we believe that every child has the right to access a high-quality education and to achieve their full potential, regardless of their circumstances at home.

We recognise that some pupils undertake caring responsibilities within their family and that these responsibilities can have a significant impact on their wellbeing, attendance, learning and social development.

We are committed to identifying and supporting young carers to ensure they are able to fully participate in school life and achieve positive outcomes.

We define a Young Carer as a child or young person under the age of 18 who provides, or intends to provide, care, assistance or emotional support to a family member who has a disability, physical illness, mental health condition, substance misuse issue or additional support need. Caring responsibilities may include practical tasks, personal care, emotional support, administering medication, household responsibilities or caring for siblings.

This policy outlines how the federation will identify, support and raise awareness of young carers. We will work in partnership with families, Surrey Young Carers and other relevant agencies to ensure support is coordinated, appropriate and effective.

Aims

The federation aims to:

- Identify young carers as early as possible.
- Raise awareness and understanding of the challenges young carers may face.
- Ensure young carers receive appropriate support to achieve their educational potential.
- Promote the wellbeing, attendance and inclusion of young carers.
- Work collaboratively with families and external agencies to provide coordinated support.
- Ensure all staff understand their role in identifying and supporting young carers.

- Respect the dignity, privacy and confidentiality of young carers and their families.

Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has overall responsibility for supporting young carers within the federation. Day-to-day support may be delegated to an identified Young Carers Champion or another appropriate member of staff.

The designated lead will:

- Act as the main point of contact for young carers and their families.
- Coordinate support within school.
- Liaise with Surrey Young Carers and other relevant services.
- Monitor the wellbeing, attendance and progress of identified young carers.
- Ensure staff are aware of appropriate procedures and support available.

Our Commitment to Young Carers

The Newlands CofE School Federation will:

- Ensure all pupils know who they can speak to if they have caring responsibilities or concerns about someone at home.
- Provide training and information for staff to help them identify young carers and understand the challenges they may face.
- Proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the support available within school and the wider community.
- Where appropriate, provide opportunities for young carers to access peer support groups or wellbeing sessions overseen by trained members of staff.
- Make referrals to Surrey Young Carers and other appropriate services with the consent of the young person and their family, where appropriate.
- Welcome visits from Surrey Young Carers and other support services to provide individual or group support within school.
- Provide information about support for young carers on the federation website and through other communication channels.
- Consider reasonable adjustments where a pupil's caring responsibilities affect their participation in school activities, clubs, trips or wider opportunities.
- Provide opportunities during the admissions process for parents and carers to share information about any caring responsibilities within the family.
- Avoid making assumptions about families affected by disability, illness, mental health conditions or substance misuse.
- Treat all young carers and their families with sensitivity, respect and understanding.
- Respect the young person's right to privacy and confidentiality. Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with safeguarding and data protection requirements.
- Ensure that a young person's caring role is not discussed in front of their peers without their consent.
- Include young carers in transition arrangements when moving between classes, key stages or schools to ensure appropriate support continues.

Attendance, Punctuality and Engagement

The federation recognises that caring responsibilities can sometimes impact attendance, punctuality, homework completion, participation in extracurricular activities and overall engagement with learning.

Where a pupil's caring responsibilities affect their attendance, punctuality or engagement, the school will work collaboratively with the pupil, family and relevant agencies to identify barriers and implement appropriate support and reasonable adjustments wherever possible.

Support may include:

- Pastoral support and regular check-ins.
- Flexible arrangements where appropriate.
- Support with homework or missed learning.
- Access to wellbeing and emotional support.
- Signposting to external services.

Safeguarding

The wellbeing and safety of all pupils remain paramount.

Where concerns arise regarding a young person's wellbeing, safety or caring responsibilities, these will be managed in accordance with the federation's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the principles set out in *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.

Staff should remain alert to situations where a child may be undertaking inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities that could be detrimental to their wellbeing, development or educational outcomes.

Any safeguarding concerns will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay.

Confidentiality

The federation recognises that many young carers may feel anxious about disclosing information regarding their family circumstances.

Information will be treated sensitively and confidentially. Details regarding a pupil's caring responsibilities will only be shared with staff who need the information in order to provide appropriate support.

The federation will always seek to work in partnership with the young person and their family wherever possible.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body first adopted this policy in May 2024.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required due to changes in legislation, guidance or local practice.

The Safeguarding Committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy.

Date of last review: Summer 2026

Date for next review: Summer 2027