

# Rushmere Hall Primary School

## Young Carers Policy



Date	Lead Person	Approved	Review Date
September 2020	Head teacher	Governing Body	September 2023

# Young Carers Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: The Whole School Safeguarding Policy and The Equalities Policy.

At Rushmere Hall Primary 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 likely to be young carers among our pupils, and that being a young carer can sometimes have an adverse effect on a young person's education. We have adopted 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 school work, and help our young carers become resilient, independent and confident young people who know that they and their education are important and valued.

## 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, substance misuse or a long-term illness

The person they care for may be a parent, sibling, or grandparent and the care they give may be physical and/or emotional. 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 etc.

Young carers can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life may sometimes be restricted with fewer opportunities for fun and after school activities.

Factors which may indicate that a young person is caring 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/or 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
- Being 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 someone is a young carer, staff will be sensitive when we approach that pupil, as we appreciate they may not want other people to know about their caring role. Before passing on information to relevant colleagues we will obtain the consent of the young carer.

**At Rushmere Hall Primary School we support young carers by:**

- Providing a named member of staff with lead responsibility. We will make sure all pupils know who this is.
- Including issues around disability, mental ill health and young carers in PSHE and Citizenship lessons.
- Avoiding stigmatisation or labelling of pupils who are carers and provide guidance on preventing bullying.
- Ensuring parents can access school for open evenings, etc and if this is not possible, consider how links can be made with home.
- Having an agreed confidentiality policy, which includes statements on child protection and safeguarding.
- Ensuring we think about sensitivities and differences around cultural needs, including those of refugees.
- Considering how information on pupils' pastoral needs can be effectively passed between primary and secondary school or across other phases.
- Providing specific staff training.
- Including mechanisms for effective inter-agency work to support young carers (including child protection procedures if required).
- Including mechanisms to consult with young carers and their parents about content of policies and delivery of support.
- Considering alternatives and being flexible when responding to the needs of young carers. This may include (but is not limited to) access to a telephone at break times, negotiable deadlines for homework or opportunities to do homework at lunch times.
- Including methods of regularly evaluating the effectiveness of policy and support (in addition to meeting OFSTED requirements).

**Monitoring and Review of Policy**

The Governing Body will monitor this policy and review in September 2023, or earlier if required by legislation.