FORDBRIDGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

APPROVED BY GOVERNORS

SIGNED: TOM CROYDON

DATED: 09TH OCTOBER 2025

DATE
AUTUMN 25

Reviewed by Mrs E Beavan

REVIEW DATE
AUTUMN 26

At Fordbridge Community Primary School, we recognise that a number of our pupils have caring responsibilities at home. We are committed to identifying and supporting young carers to ensure they have equal access to education, emotional wellbeing, and opportunities to thrive.

A young carer is aged between 5 and 25 years old. Young Carers look after someone (family member or friend) who has an illness, disability, mental heath condition, and alcohol/subsidence dependency. Young Carers take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would be normally expected of an adult.

We recognise that some of our pupils may be Young Carers, and we understand that their responsibilities at home can significantly affect their education and overall wellbeing. Being a young carer can present unique challenges that may hinder a child's ability to fully engage with school life and reach their academic potential.

As a result of their caring role, a young carer may:

- Have irregular or poor school attendance
- Arrive late to school
- Experience a decline in academic progress
- Struggle to complete homework consistently
- Miss out on extracurricular activities or school trips
- Show signs of low motivation or persistent tiredness
- Appear withdrawn or socially isolated, and find it difficult to build peer relationships
- Exhibit emotional distress, including anxiety, depression, anger, or self-harming behaviour
- Have difficulty concentrating, often due to worry about their family member
- Take on adult roles in social settings or struggling to enjoy age-appropriate experiences

Additionally, engaging with parents or carers of Young Carers may sometimes be challenging. Families may feel anxious about being judged or fear that their circumstances could lead to unnecessary intervention. As a school, we aim to be sensitive and flexible in our approach. We may need to explore alternative ways to communicate with families and ensure that support is provided in a way that builds trust and understanding.

Identifying Young Carers:

We are committed to identifying and supporting young carers as early as possible. During the school enrolment process for new pupils, we seek to identify families where a parent or family member has a disability, long-term physical or mental health condition, or issues related to substance misuse. Where appropriate, we ask whether the child has any caring responsibilities and whether they may require additional support. If a pupil is identified as a young carer, we will work with them and their family that recognises and addresses their specific needs of being a Young Carer within school. Where necessary, referrals may be made to Solihull Young Carers for a formal assessment. We also remain mindful that some young carers may not exhibit obvious signs of their role, particularly where a family member has a

hidden disability, mental health condition, or substance misuse issue. Therefore, our staff are trained to remain vigilant and sensitive to the possibility of a caring role, even in the absence of typical indicators.

Young Carers in School

Our designated Young Carers Lead are:

Mrs E Beavan – Assistant Headteacher
Miss N Timmins – Assistant Child and Family Support Worker

They are the main point of contact for young carers and their families and coordinate all support and interventions. They are responsible for:

- Ensuring that young carers are given equal opportunities to access a full and balanced education, along with the same future career pathways as their peers.
- Actively promoting and coordinating the necessary support to help young carers thrive both academically and emotionally.
- Working collaboratively with external agencies, including adult services, to provide comprehensive and joined-up support for young carers and their families.

Supported offered:

At Fordbridge Community Primary School, we are committed to supporting our Young Carers through a range of targeted initiatives.

- Monthly Drop-In Sessions**:** Held in school by our designated Young Carers Leads. These provide a safe, informal space to talk, share experiences, and access support.
- Termly Young Carers Trips**:** Organised to provide respite, fun, and opportunities to build peer relationships.
- Regular Check-Ins**:** Pupils are offered emotional support, mentoring, and help with academic or pastoral concerns.
- Staff Awareness Training**:** All staff receive training to recognise and understand the needs of young carers.
- Confidentiality is respected at all times unless there is a safeguarding concern.

We are proud of the supportive, inclusive environment that we provide for Young Carers.