



Young Carers Policy

Approved by: Full Governing Body

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Review: April 2025

Signed: Chair: Mr. C Harris

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1. Context

At Reddal Hill Primary School, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education regardless of their home circumstances. This aim of this policy is to ensure that Young Carers at our school are identified and offered appropriate support to ensure they achieve the potential and do not place their education at risk due to their caring responsibilities.

2. Definition

Young Carers are children and young people under the age of 18 years of age, who are helping to look after someone at home. They could be caring for a parent, sibling, grandparent or other relative who may have a physical or sensory disability, chronic illness, mental health issues, alcohol or substance related illness, is elderly or infirm or has HIV/AIDS.

We acknowledge that helping out around the home is part of growing up but we are aware that Young Carers regularly take on responsibilities inappropriate to their age. Caring responsibilities can include:

- Nursing care: giving medication, injections, changing dressing, assisting with mobility;
- Personal intimate care: washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toileting;
- Domestic care: housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning and laundry;
- Childcare: Looking after younger siblings;
- Financial care: Looking after household budget and finances; and
- Emotional care: Listening and supporting.

3. Potential effects on education

At Reddal Hill Primary School we acknowledge that it is likely that some of our children are Young Carers and that being a Young Carer may have an adverse effect on their education. A Young Carer may experience:

- Poor attendance and / or punctuality as a result of their caring roles and responsibilities;
- Concentration problems, they may be feeling anxious or worried whilst in school;
- Tiredness;
- Poor attainment;
- Behaviour changes, they may become more withdrawn or have anger outbursts;
- They may experience low self-esteem;

- They may struggle to make and maintain friendships and feel socially isolated due to their caring roles;
- Lack of parental engagement, they may not be able to attend parent evenings and other school events;
- Bullying due to their caring responsibilities;
- Physical ailments/pain caused by carrying out caring needs; and / or
- Lack of time to participate in extracurricular activities.

4. Support Offered

We recognise that young carers may need extra support to ensure they feel supported and have equal access to education. The designated member of staff for Young Carers is Mrs Juliann Nisbet, Parent Support Advisor. Mrs Nisbet will liaise with relevant school staff, Sandwell Young Carers and other relevant agencies to best meet the needs of the Young Carer.

We will:

- Identify Young Carers in our school by ensuring all staff have an understanding how to recognise a Young Carer who has not already been identified;
- Have a designated member of staff who is responsible for supporting Young Carers;
- Give advice and support to Young Carers about Sandwell Young Carers and the support they can offer;
- Ensure Young Carers can access support services; and
- Participate in training that is available.
- Raise awareness of the role of a Young Carer amongst our pupils through assemblies.
- Where appropriate, we may refer a Young Carer to the Local Authority for a Carers Needs Assessment.

5. Provision

We recognise that we may need to be flexible when responding to the needs of Young Carers therefore we will provide

- Access to a telephone if required at break and lunchtime;
- Be flexible with deadlines for homework when needed;
- Access to the school site for parents with impaired mobility;
- Provide alternative methods of communication when needed; and
- Advice and support for parents.