



**Kingfisher**  
CE ACADEMY

**Kingfisher CE Primary Academy  
Young Carers Policy  
2023-2024**

This policy should be read in line with our schools' vision statement, '**Discovering and Learning together, so all can Flourish**', as it encompasses everything that we do. It stems from the Christian belief that all children are to believe in themselves, that support and encouragement will help them to become lifelong learners, and develop a sense of community, as we grow together as part of God's family; being with God and having his help as we live and learn together in all that we are and seek to be.

### **Definition of a Young Carer**

Young Carers are children or young people, under the age of 18 years old, who look after someone who has a disability, long-term illness, mental health problem, or a problem with drugs or alcohol.

Young Carers may be taking care of a parent, brother, sister or any other family member or close friend. Caring may take the form of personal care, domestic chores, giving medication, help to fill in forms, giving reminders of what to do and when, supervision, emotional or communication support.

### **Young Carers at Kingfisher**

At Kingfisher CE Academy School 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.

Our School:

- Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and informs all new students who the member of staff is and what they can do to help. They are known as the Young carers Champion.
- 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 (for example during form/tutor time, assemblies, PSHE sessions)
- Makes referrals to the Young Carers Project where appropriate and with the family and young person's permission.
- Welcomes visits from the Young Carers Project to work with pupils referred for support so they can meet in a safe setting for 1:1 support sessions.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend extra curricular activities due to their caring role.
- Is physically accessible and has accessible information available to parents who have mobility or communication difficulties.
- 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.
- Respects the young person's right to privacy and only shares information on them and their family with people who need to know. Their home situation and caring role will not be discussed in front of their peers.
- Treats young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality. The young person's caring role is acknowledged and respected.

### **3. Attendance**

We do expect all our children to attend registration and every school day but will be supportive of any Young Carer who is late into school due to caring responsibilities at home in the mornings. A scheme/plan will be put into place so the Young Carer will not feel pressured or anxious because they are late. We provide reasonable flexibility on attendance if absence is due to providing emergency care or a bereavement.

In the event of emergency care being required, school will liaise with all agencies to ensure that absence from school is kept to a minimum. Where/when the Young Carer is unable to get into school then a range of schoolwork will be sent home.

### **4. Additional provision**

Kingfisher will ensure that any Young Carer will be offered a range of interventions to support their academic needs.

We will assist parents with disabilities and health problems to access parent's evenings in a way that meets their needs or offer an alternative.

We will ensure that all Young Carer's are considered for all after school activities and will try and offer alternative times for these activities, during the day, if they cannot be attended after school due to their caring roles.

Sessions on Young Carers will be taught during PSHE and Citizenship programmes for each year group to help raise awareness and give pupils the understanding of what a young carer is, the rights they have and the support that is available to them.