



Young Carers Policy

Policy Title	Young Carers Policy
Policy Created	October 2020
Policy Ratified	At the GB next meeting
Policy Review Date	Annual -October

Key Roles in Young Carers Policy	
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Abbots Green Academy Young Carers Policy

This Young Carers policy has been developed to recognise, promote and support students, who in whatever manner, offer care and support for family members. This policy is endorsed and fully supported by the Governors.

In accordance with our vision and values, it is acknowledged that the recognition and support of our “Young Carers” is of paramount importance. Children will often have poor attendance, have low attainment and have a reduced chance of accessing further education or employment.

This policy is designed to guide staff in the recognition and methods of support available to those identified as Young Carers within Abbots Green Academy. It will outline the methods of identification, the support available in school and how children can be referred to supporting outside agencies.

We aim to:

- Identify all children who are caring for others in whatever capacity.
- Provide confidential mentoring and support for children when required.
- Provide suitable resources, information advice and guidance to support those identified.
- Make relevant referrals to the Suffolk Family Carers Young Carers Scheme, Designated safeguarding Lead (when necessary) and to other agencies offering relevant support.
 - Support Suffolk Family Carers Young Carers to make contact with the parents and families of those identified as young carers and to keep them informed of the activities offered.
- Provide a member of staff who will act as the Young Carer Lead.

Definition – both categories of Young Carer are covered by this policy

A Young Carer has been defined as any child under the age of 16 who cares for or are affected by a family member who has a physical or mental illness or misuses drugs or alcohol.

A Sibling Carer is a young person who is affected by a brother or sister's disability, illness or additional needs.

Responsibility of the Head teacher - The Headteacher will:

- Appoint a Young Carer Lead who will co-ordinate and manage visits from Suffolk Family Carers Young Carers within school.
- Ensure the promotion of the policy throughout the organisation.
- Provide the availability for support and guidance for identified individuals.
- Ensure that the bullying, harassment and discrimination of young carers by staff or other students is not tolerated.
 - Ensure that the Deputy Head and the Young Carer Lead makes relevant referrals to supporting professionals when necessary.

Responsibility of the Deputy Head and the Young Carer Lead - will:

- Ensure that all relevant referrals are made to supporting agencies and to the DSL within school when appropriate.
- Liaise with Rainbow room and class teachers as to the current children identified under their supervision and responsibility
- Meet regularly with the Young Carer Lead to discuss any issues arising

The Young Carer Lead and assistant Lead will:

- Develop appropriate methods of identifying students in school who are "Young Carers".

- Maintain the referral system within school.
- Meet with the Suffolk Family Carers Young Carers representative on a regular basis.
- Meet with all Children referred as Young Carers
- Develop and maintain supporting schemes such as home-work clubs and children drop in sessions supported by the Young Carer volunteer team.
- Liaise with the Deputy Head, Designated Safeguarding Lead, SENCO, Young Carer Lead and Attendance Officer on a regular basis.
- Maintain communication with class teachers as to the current children identified under their supervision and responsibility.
- At the request of current Young Carers, apply an indicator on SIMS/CPOMS to ensure that Young Carers are identified to staff.

Policy Statement

Abbots Green Academy recognises that there are children across all year groups who are performing a caring role within their own family units. This policy supports all those children who have been identified as Young Carers.

The purpose of the Policy:

- To identify all those who are performing a Young Carer role.
- To ensure appropriate recognition and support is offered within school by all staff.
- To ensure that the appropriate referrals are made in compliance with legislation, Codes of Practice and School Policy

Confidentiality

It is imperative that those identified as Young Carers can be confident of staff confidentiality. Information shared may be of a very personal or sensitive nature emanating from different sources. Young Carers can expect that privacy and confidentiality will be maintained.

Young Carers will also be informed that where information has been gained which relates to incidents or situations that require immediate notification to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or other Statutory Investigative Organisations, this information will be shared. Confidentiality will be maintained between those organisations which have a duty to act on the information shared.

The young carer may have to perform any of the tasks mentioned below:

- Cooks or prepares meals regularly for anyone in the family
- Takes or collects siblings to and from school
- Regularly makes feeds for baby siblings or changes their nappies
- Helps any family member to dress

- Helps any family member to feed
- Helps any family member to wash or with any other personal hygiene tasks
- Regularly washes and irons clothes for the rest of the family
- Regularly does the weekly shopping with older siblings
- Assists a family member to take essential medication
- Gives regular emotional or physical support to a family member who may be suffering from an addiction, substance abuse or mental illness
- Gives regular emotional or physical support to a family member who may be involved in an abusive relationship, separation or divorce
- Any other way in which the children feels that they may be supporting others in their family on a regular basis.

Staff will be contacted by the Young Carer Lead and the Deputy Head to make them aware of the needs of the individuals concerned.

Key Indicators of Success

- Children will be identified by the methods discussed above
- The attendance and punctuality of the Young Carers will show signs of improvement
- The attainment grades of the Young Carer will show marginal improvement
- The general emotional and physical welfare of those identified will show signs of improvement
- The achievement of the Suffolk Family Carers Young Carers Award accreditations.
- Link to Suffolk Family Carers Young Carers on Abbots Green Academy Website.

Success will be reviewed annually by the Head teacher in liaison with the Deputy Head, Young Carer Lead and Assistant Lead. The Governing Body will review and ratify the Policy on an annual basis.