

Banks Road Primary School



Young Carers Policy

Provenance/ Author	Person (s) Responsible	Version	Reviewers and Date	Effective Date	Recommended Review Date	Distribution
DSL/Deputy Headteacher J Savage	Headteacher J Wilson	V5	Governors	September 2024	September 2025	All Staff
DSL/Deputy Headteacher J Savage	Headteacher J Wilson	V6	Governors	September 2025	September 2026	All Staff
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Commitment

Banks Road Primary School's commitment to young carers is to support the emotional and academic needs of young carers to achieve their full potential, irrespective of complexities of needs and home.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with, or carrying out, a significant physical or emotional caring role and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be undertaken by an adult.

They can be caring for any of the following:

- Parent or sibling suffering from mental health issues
- Parent or sibling with a physical disability
- Parent or sibling with entrenched substance misuse problems
- Parent or sibling with learning disabilities
- Parent or sibling with a chronic or terminal illness

Identification of young carers

The school recognises that many young carers may not be identified or may not self-identify.

To support identification, the school will:

- Include questions about caring responsibilities in admission and data collection forms
- Ask previous settings about caring responsibilities during transition
- Raise awareness of young carers through assemblies, PSHE and school communications
- Provide opportunities for pupils and families to disclose caring responsibilities in a safe and supportive way
- Monitor signs such as attendance issues, fatigue, anxiety or changes in behaviour

Staff who suspect a pupil may be a young carer must report this to the Young Carers Lead in line with safeguarding procedures.

Young Carers and the effects on their education

At Banks Road Primary School, we acknowledge that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems, such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (sometimes taking out their anger and frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation; embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self-esteem

Individual support planning

Where appropriate, the school will develop an individual support plan for young carers.

This will:

- Be developed in partnership with the pupil and their family

- Identify specific needs and agreed support strategies
- Be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains appropriate and effective

Support offered

Banks Road Primary School ensures that the following support is available for all young carers within our school:

- Banks Road Primary School has an identified young carer's representative – our Deputy Headteacher, Mr Savage. In his absence, Miss Gainey (Assistant Headteacher) will undertake the role.
- All staff are made aware of who their young carers representatives are.
- The school will work in partnership with external agencies, including local young carers services, to ensure pupils and families receive appropriate support.

Where appropriate, referrals will be made and liaison maintained with these services.

- All staff are aware of how to share/ report information to these persons.
- The school has an internal effective reporting system between all staff and the young carers' representatives in line with our school safeguarding policy.
- The school recognises that young carers may require early help and are a potentially vulnerable group as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).
- Any child/ young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at our school will be referred to the appropriate services.
- When a young carer leaves the school, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school subject to consent from the young carer and their family.
- Banks Road Primary School will be flexible with late attendance due to a young carer's caring role. Where this is a regular occurrence, provision will be put into place, complying with all current policy.
- Banks Road Primary School will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent and appropriate support is sourced.
- Banks Road Primary School acknowledges that young carers will not be obliged to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Banks Road Primary School will ensure young carers can access all available support services at school.
- Banks Road Primary School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Banks Road Primary School will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime for young carers to call home.
- Banks Road Primary School will ensure that young carers have access to a homework club.
- Banks Road Primary School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility.

- Banks Road Primary School will provide alternative communication options for parents of young carers who are sensory impaired or are housebound. This will include alternative communication options for parents' evenings.
- Appropriate provisions will be put in place for young carers whose parents do not drive due to illness or disability. Such actions will follow safeguarding procedures at all times.
- Banks Road Primary School will always report any cases of a child who may be carrying out an inappropriate caring role, which is causing immediate concern and/ or risk for their safety, in line with our safeguarding policy.
- Banks Road Primary School will commit to accessing and providing training for staff about young carers and their issues.

Pupil and family voice

The school will seek feedback from young carers and their families to evaluate the effectiveness of support.

This may include:

- informal conversations
- surveys
- pupil discussions

Feedback will be used to improve provision.

Process for responding to concerns

Where a member of staff identifies or suspects that a pupil may be a young carer:

1. The concern will be reported to the Young Carers Lead / DSL
2. A discussion will take place to determine appropriate next steps
3. Where appropriate, conversations will be held with the pupil and family
4. A decision will be made regarding identification and support
5. Support will be implemented and monitored

All actions will follow safeguarding procedures where relevant.

Recording and monitoring

The school will:

- Record identified young carers on the school's management information system (MIS)
- Ensure key staff (DSL, SENCO, attendance lead and class teachers) are aware of pupils' status where appropriate
- Monitor young carers' attendance, attainment and wellbeing
- Review data regularly to identify trends and additional support needs
- Continue to monitor pupils who have previously been young carers, recognising ongoing vulnerability

Links with other policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy