



# Young Carers Policy

July 2021

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Date of approval:</b>    | July 2021           |
| <b>Approved by:</b>         | Local Academy Board |
| <b>Date of next review:</b> | July 2022           |



## **Rationale**

At Ellesmere Park High School we are aware that pupils in our school may well have caring roles at home.

We believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities.

When a young person does look after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, they may need a little extra support to help them get the most out of school. We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers and to have a separate policy for young carers stating how we will support any pupil who helps to look after someone at home. We aim to support young carers through a whole-school approach and through working with other agencies and professionals, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the young carer.

## **Policy**

The school is aware of paragraph 2.28 of the School Admissions Code 2010 which under the section 'Social and medical need' states:

'...it is acceptable to give higher priority to children or families where there is a social or medical need (for example, where one or both parents or the child has a disability that may make travel to a school further away more difficult).'

For more information, see [www.dcsf.gov.uk/sacode/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/sacode/)

The school views young carers as any other pupil, but understands that they have the additional burden of caring responsibilities.

The school will keep up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families.

The whole school is committed to meeting the needs of young carers so that they are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers.

Michael Bird (Deputy Head) is the school's senior lead whilst Katharine Barratt (Assistant Head Teacher) is the operational lead within school.

Both will lead and have special responsibility for young carers and their families. Pupils and families will be made aware of the identity of the schools leads. The Young Carer leads have direct communication with Salford Young Carers and other associated external services to provide support for the young carers and their families.

Training on young carers' issues will be embedded in ongoing professional development for all staff.

During the school enrolment process for new pupils, the school will identify whether parent(s) or family members have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health problems and if the pupil helps to look after them and if this has an impact on their education. This will be part of the Year 6 transition process or as part of a midyear entry to Ellesmere Park High School.

Pupils who are young carers will be identified along with any additional needs they may have.

The school will use and evaluate data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by young carers.

The school will aim to offer support to improve attendance and pupil's well-being.

The right to pupil's and families' privacy will be respected and the school will only share information with professionals and agencies on a "need to know basis" in order to support pupils and families.

Information about support available for young carers and how to access it will be made clearly available to both pupils and families.

The school recognises that young carers and their families need to receive coordinated support by the school, working in partnership where appropriate with general practitioners, young carers' services, behaviour and education support teams.

Young carers will be referred or signposted to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate, including the local young carers' service.

The school adheres to the *Disability Discrimination Acts (1995, 2005)* and is accessible to parents with disabilities and/or illness, offering additional support to enable them to attend parents' evenings or other school events.

Home visits will be considered where appropriate.

The school will offer additional support to remove any communication barriers with parents, so that parents are able to be fully engaged with the education of their child.

The school will identify those young carers at risk of falling into the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) category and take appropriate actions to address this.

The school will offer support to the young person and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school/college lead for young carers and their families.

Relevant aspects of the curriculum, such as The National Healthy Schools Programme, PSHCE will be used to encourage positive approaches by all teachers and staff working with young carers.

The school will use the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of, and respect for, issues such as caring, disability and impairment, for example, embedding the challenges faced by young carers into PSHCE lessons curriculum.

The school will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities, such as sports coaching or concerts, due to their caring role. The school will also consider lunch time detentions rather than after school ones.

The school will allow young carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member.

Other appropriate policies, such as the anti-bullying policy, will take young carers into account.