



Young Carers Policy

This policy was approved and ratified by Peoples Committee of
Cox Green School
on 23/5/24

Version	Authorisation	Approval Date	Effective Date	Next Review
1	Peoples Committee	23/5/24	23/5/24	May 2027



1. Introduction

At Cox Green 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. We are working in conjunction with Family Action Young Carers Project at Royal Borough Windsor and Maidenhead to provide this support.

1.1 Definition of a Young Carer

A Young Carer is defined in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014 as:

“A young person under the age of 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person” who is suffering from a physical or mental illness, physical or learning disability or addiction”.

The Children and Families Act 2014 and Care Act 2014 strengthen the rights of young carers and give greater protection of their welfare. The Acts place a duty on local authorities to carry out an assessment to establish the support needs of a young carer. The assessment considers the needs of the whole family. A young carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care-giving and care responsibility becomes excessive or inappropriate for the young person, risking negative impact on his or her emotional, physical well-being, educational achievement and life chances.

2. Purpose of Policy

2.1 Aims

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers;
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students;
- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school;
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible;
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students;
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities;
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer Provision;
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities;
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.



2.2 How Will Cox Green School Support Young Carers?

As a school, we will:

- Have at minimum one 'Young Carers Champion' who have responsibility for young carers within our school setting;
- Explore opportunities to set up and run a young carers group or drop in sessions;
- Refer young carers and their families to Family Action's Young Carers service for an assessment of support needs;
- Respect the rights of young carers and their families by sharing information on a 'need to know basis';
- Will consider the impact caring has on a young carer with regards to their overall wellbeing and development, and support their needs accordingly.

During the school enrolment process for new pupils the school will:

- Identify parents or family members who have disabilities or other long term physical or mental health conditions;
- Identify if the pupil has caring responsibilities and if this means this Young Carer has any additional needs that need to be supported;
- Establish individual plans to recognise the child's / young person's specific needs as a Young Carer;
- Ensure intervention is targeted and young carers are supported.

Cox Green School Views Young Carers as any other pupil but understands that they have the additional pressure of caring responsibilities.

Cox Green School will identify Young Carers at risk of falling into the NEET ("Not in Education, Employment, or Training") category and take appropriate actions to address this.

Cox Green School will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

2.3 Strategies

- To include space on school application forms for parents to declare:
 - a) Whether or not their child is a young carer;
 - b) Whether or not their child is registered as a young carer.
- To work with Family Action Young Carers to ensure that all relevant school staff receive training around how to identify and support young carers;
- To create a Young Carer Register, accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff;
- To appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision;
- To appoint a member of staff to lead on young carer provision who will be responsible for maintaining a young carer support group and corresponding with external agencies such the relevant local authorities and Family Action to stay up to date on a young carer's circumstances and needs;
- To monitor the progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary;



- To monitor the attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary;
- To make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case-by case basis regarding issues such as lateness to school, late homework and poor attendance;
- To ensure that young carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary;
- To work with Family Action Young Carers to raise awareness of young carers and develop a culture of respect for young carers among the student community and also to encourage young carers to come forwards and make themselves known by delivering student assemblies and PSHE lessons;
- To offer young carers extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection for young carers;
- To support young carers in getting to and from the school where necessary;
- To ensure that young carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the school provision for young carers;
- To offer a programme of careers advice and guidance and, where possible, work experience placements;
- To maintain and regularly review our Young Carers Policy.
- To ensure the designated professional for young carers will liaise with relevant colleagues and other relevant agencies regarding their caring responsibilities, with the consent of the young carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated professional;
- The school will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and staff will not discuss their situation in front of their peers;
- The school appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected;
- The school will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality;
- The school will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school;
- The school will follow child protection procedures as outlined in our Safeguarding policy, regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring;
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):
 - a) Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime to phone home
 - b) Negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)
 - c) Access to homework clubs (where these are available)
 - d) Identifying support for them and their family to enable them to attend school trips and educational activities;
 - e) Access for parents with impaired mobility;
 - f) Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound;
 - g) Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school;
 - h) Access to school for wider support i.e. food bank



3. Roles and Responsibilities

- Young Carer Champion: Sharon Phelps (Designated Safeguarding Officer) s.phelps@coxgreen.com
- Young Carer Champion: Daisy Last (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer) d.last@coxgreen.com
- Family Action, Building Stronger Families. 020 7254 6251 · info@family-action.org.uk

4. Communication of Policy

This policy will be available on the school website for parents and carers, and accessible for staff on the staff intranet.

5. Review of Policy

This policy shall be reviewed every three years by the Senior Leadership Team.