



South Gosforth First School  
*'Roots to grow and wings to fly'*

**Young Carer Policy**  
**December 2022**

	<b>Staff:</b> To read and offer feedback To implement policy	<b>Governors</b> Approve	<b>Accessibility</b> Website Saved to teachers drive
<b>Date</b>	<b>December 2022</b>	<b>December 2022</b>	<b>December 2022</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>December 2024</b>		

**Members of staff responsible:**

- Mr Adams (Head Teacher and Young Carer Coordinator)
- Miss Blackburn (Deputy Head Teacher)
- Mrs Burnett (EYFS Lead)
- Mrs Logan (KS1 Lead)
- Miss Rutherford (KS2 Lead and SENCO)

**Rationale:**

At South Gosforth First School, every child is equal, valued and unique. We aim to provide an environment where all pupils feel safe and can flourish, regardless of their situation at home. We will respond to individuals in ways which take into account their varied life experiences and particular needs. The purpose of this policy is to outline South Gosforth First School's approach to the identification, care and monitoring of pupils who are classified as a young carer. The school will treat young carers in a sensitive manner, using a child centred approach. The young carers' role will be acknowledged and respected.

South Gosforth First School is committed to providing an education that enables all pupils to make progress so that they achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives and make a successful transition into adulthood.

**Definition:**

A young carer is a pupil under 18 years of age who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem. Caring can involve physical or emotional care, or taking responsibility for someone's safety or wellbeing. The level of responsibility assumed by a Young Carer is often disproportionate to their age and at a level beyond simply 'helping out' with jobs at home, which is a normal part of growing up. According to the Newcastle Carers organisation (<https://www.newcastlecarers.org.uk/young-carers-who-is-a-young-carer/>), the young carer may be taking on the responsibility for things such as:

- meal preparation,
- housework,
- helping the person they care for wash and dress themselves,
- assisting with medication
- interpreting for the person they care for
- providing emotional support and reassurance to the person they care for
- staying with the person they care for, to keep them physically safe

## **Intent**

At South Gosforth First School, we aim to:

- Ensure young carers feel included and supported within their school community and take part in all school activities
- Ensure all young carers make progress and achieve in line with their peers
- Raise awareness of young carers amongst staff and aim to identify any young carers as early as possible.
- Include young carers in discussions about our young carer provision
- Recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers

## **Implementation**

### **Identification**

Our school enrolment form has a space for parents and carers to declare:

- If their child is a young carer
- If their child is registered as a young carer and accesses any external support.

In some instances, parents and carers may not have advised school about the home circumstances and we recognise that some young carers may worry about bullying or interference in their family life and may seek to conceal their role from teachers. It is important that staff are aware of the warning signs that might indicate that a pupil has unrecognised responsibilities. They can include but are not limited to:

- Regular lateness or unauthorised absence, possibly increasing
- Erratic response to homework with incomplete, late or non-compliance to set tasks
- Tiredness in school, lack of concentration, anxiety or worry
- Under-achievement
- Behavioural problems, especially inappropriate responses possibly resulting from anger or frustration
- Few or no peer friendships but possibly with a good relationship with adults and presenting as very mature for their age
- Victim of bullying, perhaps linked to a family member's disability or state of health, e.g. substance misuse problem
- Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities, especially after school
- Apparent parental disinterest due to non-attendance at parent's meetings.

### **Provision in school:**

Staff in school use the following support strategies to ensure all young carers are supported:

- A member of SLT (Mr Adams) is the young carer coordinator and is responsible for monitoring the number of young carers and overseeing young carer provision. He is the lead contact for liaising with Newcastle Carers.
- Monitor attendance and academic progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- Make reasonable adjustments to school policies and show flexibility on a case-by-case basis regarding areas such as contact with parents or carers during the school day, punctuality, attendance and homework.
- Ensure young carers have access to well-being support in school such as the school counsellor and nurture groups with opportunities to speak to someone away from their peers.
- Provide information about support outside of school ie. Newcastle Carers and offer to make a referral for a Young Carers Assessment.
- Follow safeguarding procedures where there is concern about a young carer at risk of harm due to the levels of caring.
- Where required, make adjustments and alternative provision for parents with impaired mobility, sensory impairments or who are housebound.

Staff are aware of resources that they can use to support their teaching such as:

- The Newcastle Carers website has access to a booklet written by young carers, for young carers <https://me-we.eu/booklet/>
- Online training to help understand the needs of carers and the benefits of supporting carers withing education settings <https://www.newcastlecarers.org.uk/professionals-information-for-education-providers/>
- Newcastle Carer Information Line 0191 275 5060 and email [info@newcastlecarers.org.uk](mailto:info@newcastlecarers.org.uk)

This **Young Carer policy** should be read in consultation with the **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Equality Policy, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy, Accessibility Plan, Anti-Bullying Policy and Behaviour Policy**

### **Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the governing body of South Gosforth First School.

**Date Agreed: December 2022**

**Date for Review: December 2024**