Young Carers Policy

Swakeleys School for Girls

Date Approved: **Autumn Term 2026**

Date of Next Review: **Autumn Term 2028**

Control Sheet

Version number	1
Original date approved	
Current date approved	
Approved by	Trustees
Date of next review	Autumn Term 2028
Status	**Final**
Policy owner	Gilly Hare, Deputy Headteacher
Policy location	G:\School\Handbook\POLICIES\Academy Trust
Target group	Staff, students, Trustees, public
Consultation Period	
Chair of Committee signature	

Document History:

Version	Date of Review	Author	Note of revisions

1. Policy Premise

This Young Carers policy has been developed to recognise, promote and support students, who in whatever manner, offer care and support for family members. It aims to inform staff, learners and parents how we will work to support Young Carers to access education and achieve learning.

In accordance with our vision and values, it is acknowledged that the recognition and support of our Young Carers is of paramount importance. Young carers 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 young carers identified within Swakeleys School for Girls. 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:

- recognise that young carers are not a homogeneous group and the caring role will be different dependent on the parents' or siblings' circumstances;
- identify all young people who are caring for others in their household or immediate family;
- provide channels through which staff, parents and young people can identify themselves or someone else as a Young Carer;
- provide confidential 1:1 support and opportunities for drop-ins with the Lead for Young Carers within school hours;
- provide access to the Young Carers Programme run as an intervention within school;
- provide suitable resources, information, advice and guidance to support those identified;
- make relevant referrals to Carers Trust Hillingdon and the DSL if any safeguarding concerns are raised
- provide a member of staff who will act as Young Carers Lead in school this is Mrs Venner;
- have channels of communication open with young people and their families, where possible,
- to provide the best support we can within school.
- provide suitable opportunities for Young Carers to check in with family during times of high pressure related to their caring role.
- to ensure that all young carers know who the young carers lead is and how to access
- to provide suitable opportunities for Young Carers to speak with the Young Carers Lead at school.
- to include the topic of young cares in the PSHCE curriculum

2. Definition

At Swakeleys School a Young Carer has been defined as any child under 18 who cares for, or is affected by, a family member who has a physical illness, mental ill-health, disability or misuses drugs or alcohol. This can include taking on greater responsibility for siblings or other family members.

Potential challenges at school for young carers include:

- being bullied – young carers are more likely to be bullied because of their caring role.
- reasons include presenting as withdrawn, not having a social life, general appearance, jokes being made about the person they care for.
- not getting homework done because of caring responsibilities – young carers may not be able to do homework after school because of their caring role.
- deadlines for multiple pieces of work at the same time present a challenge and where young carers are able to do homework their time is often limited.
- being worried because they cannot use their phone to check on the person they are caring for. Swakeleys restrict phone use, however for young carers this can present problems.
- missing out on school trips or extra-curricular activities due to having to be at home to care or wanting to be at home due to worry about leaving the person they care for.

3. The Young Carers Lead will:

- develop appropriate methods of identifying students in school who are Young Carers;
- coordinate and facilitate the delivery of targeted interventions for Young Carers;
- complete referrals for Young Carers to be assessed by Hillingdon Young Carers
- maintain communication with Hillingdon Young Carers as appropriate;
- meet with all young people identified as Young Carers;
- develop and maintain supporting schemes such as drop-in sessions
- liaise with the YLC, DSLs, SENDCO, Pastoral Team and Attendance Officer on a regular basis;
- maintain communication as appropriate with teachers and support staff as to the young people identified under their responsibility and supervision;
- develop ways of identifying Young Carers on school systems so that it is readily available to staff;
- be responsible for staff CPD and school assemblies with regards to raising awareness of Young Carers;
- work closely with the Pastoral Team to deliver all of the above, taking overall lead and oversight of the support in place across the school;
- ensure the promotion of the policy throughout the school;

4. The Head Teacher and LG will:

- appoint an Operational Lead for Young Carers who will co-ordinate and manage support within school;

- ensure that the bullying, harassment and discrimination of young carers by staff or other students is not tolerated;
- provide opportunities for staff CPD to raise awareness and understanding of Young Carers and the impacts of caring on their ability to access education; Annual staff training, New staff to have training on induction

5. 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. 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 DSL or other statutory investigative organisations, this information will be shared. Staff will be contacted by the Young Carer Lead, the student welfare team, and DSLs when necessary to make them aware of the needs of the individual concerned.

6. Key Indicators of Success:

- Young people will be identified by the methods mentioned above
- The attendance and punctuality of Young Carers will show signs of improvement
- The attainment of Young Carers will show marginal improvement
- The general emotional and physical welfare of Young Carers will show signs of improvement
- The achievement of Young Carers in School Awards
- Staff, parents and students are aware of how to identify themselves or someone else as a Young Carer and the channels through which to go