



GUILDHALL FEOFFMENT
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Young Carers Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: April 2023
Review by: Summer 2025

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Date_____

Young Carers Policy

Guildhall Feoffment Community Primary School is committed to enabling young carers to access education and support. This policy aims to ensure young carers at this school are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education and other services to which they are entitled.

Definition:

‘A young carer is someone under the age of 18 who looks after a family member or friend who has a physical or mental health condition, or misuses drugs or alcohol. They may also look after brothers, sisters or elderly relatives too.’ Children’s Society, 2023.

Young carers are children and young people who provide care to another family member. The level of care they provide would usually be undertaken by an adult and as a result of this they take on a level of responsibility that beyond their age and stage of development. This may have a significant impact on their childhood experiences.

Support Offered:

Guildhall Feoffment Community Primary School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education and opportunities offered through the life of a school.

Through this policy, school is giving the message that young carer’s education and school experience is important.

The designated school lead for young carers is Fiona-Catherine Thompson who will liaise with relevant colleagues, Suffolk Young Carers and other relevant agencies with parental consent. All pupils will be made aware of the designated link.

Guildhall Feoffment Community Primary School:

- Will ensure that appropriate information is shared with school staff in order that there is an awareness of the young carer’s situation.
- Will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- 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.
- Will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school and other appropriate services/agencies.
- Will promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.

- Will engage in the Young Carers in Schools programme supported by The Children's Society and Carer's Trust to develop enhanced awareness and support for young carers and work towards a Young Carers Schools Award.

Guildhall Feoffment Community Primary School recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):-

- Negotiable deadlines for homework (when needed)
- Access for parents with impaired mobility
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school
- Referrals to services who may offer support e.g. Suffolk Family Carers, holiday activities.

Data:

Following research undertaken by the Children's Commissioner in 2022, The Department for Education now asks all schools to record the number of young carers on roll. This information is shared via the school census anonymously. Families can request support with a referral to external agencies and organisations that support carers and young carers. These referrals and any information shared will only be done with parental consent.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually.