



## **NORTHMEAD JUNIOR SCHOOL**

### **Young Carers Policy**

Young carers look after someone who has a long-term physical or mental health problem, disability, or a problem with drugs or alcohol. Young carers may be taking care of a family member or a close friend. This may take the form of domestic chores, personal care, supervision, emotional support or another form of assistance.

At Northmead Junior School we believe that all young people have the right to an education. If a young person looks after someone, we know that they may need additional support to help them get the most out of their education, and we aim to meet their needs.

Our school:

- Has a designated member of staff who has special responsibility for young carers. Currently our designated liaisons are Wendy Cook, Home School Link Worker and Sarah Stocking, SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator). They will introduce themselves to you and arrange any additional support you may require.
- Is sensitive towards young carers' needs, and aims to show discretion. We will respect pupil's privacy and will only share information about their circumstances with people who need to know, in order to provide help and to ensure safety. Pupils and parents are consulted before information is shared.
- Expects pupils to attend registration and lessons on time, every school day. However, we provide reasonable flexibility on attendance if absence is due to providing emergency care. In the event of emergency care being required, absence may be allowed for a short while, and school work sent home, until alternative arrangements for care can be made by the family. Please speak to us if this becomes an issue.
- Has links with local services providing support to families with care needs, including young carer services.
- Provides additional tuition for young carers, and flexibility on work deadlines, as required. Please speak to us if you require this support.
- Provides both individual listening support and an afternoon support group for young carers.
- Provides access to a telephone to enable you to call home during breaks, if required.
- Liaises with the local authority to provide assistance for disabled parents in getting their children to school.
- Ensures that the school and its communications are accessible for parents with disabilities and health conditions.

- Uses the Pupil Premium to assist eligible young carers in their education, including accessing curriculum based trips.
- Will consider alternatives if pupils are unable to attend after school activities (e.g. sports clubs) due to their caring role. Please speak to us if this is an issue.
- Runs sessions on young carers in the PSHE programme for each year group, to help all pupils understand the issues, carers' rights and the support available, and create a 'carer-friendly' culture.
- Raises staff awareness to help identify and support young carers throughout their school career.
- Liaise with other schools, particularly at any transition to ensure young carers are well supported during these potentially stressful times.

Date of Policy            Autumn 2012

Date of Review            January 2023

Date of next Review    January 2024

At Northmead Junior School we are developing our support for young carers. Young carers are young people who have caring roles for family members or friends with physical or mental health problems or disabilities, or drug or alcohol problems.

My name is Wendy Cook and I, with Sarah Stocking, SENCO are the main contacts for young carers in the school. We liaise with pupils, families and staff in order to ensure that pupils who are carers are able to achieve and enjoy their education. A copy of the school's Young Carer Policy, for your reference, is available (on request or via our website) so that you are aware of the forms of support that the school can provide. The school is in contact with Surrey Young Carers, a charity to whom the school can refer for further assistance.

If your family is affected by any of the issues mentioned above, and your son/daughter would like support, please contact me at the school on 01483 529888 so that we can arrange to talk. If no help is required just at this time, the school would still appreciate your sharing of any circumstances that may have an impact upon your child's education as they progress through the school. This will allow us to be aware and offer support as required. Anything you do tell us will be treated sensitively and will not be shared without your knowledge.

The school receives extra funding for each child who is eligible for free school meals, which can be put towards additional support for young carers. It is therefore important that children who are eligible are registered onto the Free School Meals register, even if they do not need or want the meal. For more information on eligibility and registering, please contact me.

With thanks and best wishes, Wendy Cook