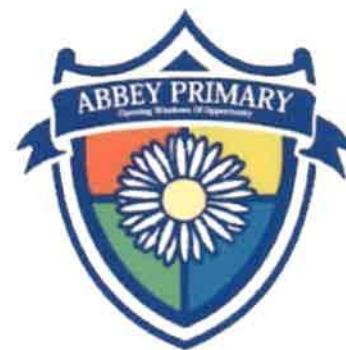


# Abbey Primary School: Young Carers Policy



## 1. Introduction

At Abbey Primary School, we believe that all children have a fundamental right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances. Some pupils take on responsibilities at home by caring for a family member who is disabled, unwell, experiencing mental health difficulties, or affected by substance misuse. These pupils are known as young carers.

We are committed to ensuring that every pupil at Abbey — including those with caring responsibilities — receives the support they need to achieve their full potential. We understand that a caring role can affect a child's attendance, wellbeing, academic progress, and participation in school life.

This policy sets out how we identify young carers, raise awareness among staff and families, and provide the support needed to help them thrive.

We are proud to work in partnership with the Young Carers Service at Sutton Carers Centre, who help us deliver tailored, compassionate support to the young carers in our school community.

## 2. Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 who provides, or intends to provide, care for another individual. This is usually a parent, sibling, or close relative who has a physical disability, long-term illness, mental health difficulty, or issues with alcohol or substance misuse.

Young carers may take on a range of responsibilities that are normally associated with adults. These may include:

- Practical tasks such as cooking, housework, or shopping
- Physical care, including lifting, helping someone dress, or mobility assistance
- Personal care such as bathing or feeding
- Managing household finances or medication
- Providing emotional support or supervision
- Looking after siblings due to a parent's condition

These responsibilities can affect a young carer's physical health, emotional wellbeing, social development, and academic progress.

## 3. Our Commitment

Abbey Primary School is committed to:

- Recognising and identifying young carers as early as possible
- Raising awareness across the school community
- Ensuring that young carers are not disadvantaged due to their caring responsibilities
- Working closely with families and external agencies to provide effective support

## 4. Identification and Support

We identify young carers through:

- Staff training and awareness
- Pupil voice and self-identification
- Parent and carer engagement
- Referrals from other agencies

Support may include:

- Regular check-ins with a trusted member of staff
- Flexible deadlines and additional academic support
- Pastoral support and access to wellbeing services
- Help with attendance, uniform, and access to trips or clubs
- Referrals to Sutton Carers Centre's Young Carers Service, with appropriate consent


## 5. Working in Partnership

We work in partnership with families, external professionals, and the Young Carers Service at Sutton Carers Centre to:

- Share information appropriately and sensitively
- Plan tailored support for individual pupils
- Monitor and review the impact of support provided

## 6. Sutton Carers Centre Contact Information

**Sutton Carers Centre – Young Carers Service**  
Benhill House, 12–14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, SM1 4DA

 020 8296 5611

 [www.suttoncarerscentre.org](http://www.suttoncarerscentre.org)

 [youngcarers@suttoncarerscentre.org](mailto:youngcarers@suttoncarerscentre.org)

## 7. Staff Responsibilities

- The Designated Lead for Young Carers is: Miss Harman
- The Deputy Lead for Young Carers is: Mrs A Delgado
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: Mr L Sandeman
- All staff are responsible for being aware of this policy and the potential indicators of a young carer

## 8. Confidentiality and Safeguarding

We respect the confidentiality of all pupils. Information about a young carer's circumstances will be handled sensitively and shared only when it is in the best interests of the pupil, and in line with safeguarding and data protection policies.

## 9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed based on feedback from young carers, families, staff, and partner services.

**Policy Lead:** Mrs Stirling-Williams

**Policy Review Date:** 9th July 2025

**Next Review Due:** 9th July 2026