

# Banks Road Primary School



## Young Carers Policy

Provenance/ Author	Person (s) Responsible	Version	Reviewers and Date	Effective Date	Recommended Review Date	Distribution
DSL Jamie Wilson	Headteacher/ DSL	V1	All Staff	May 2019	April 2021	All Staff
DSL Jamie Wilson	Headteacher/ DSL	V2	All Staff	April 2021	April 2022	All Staff
DSL Jamie Wilson	Headteacher/ DSL	V3	All Staff	September 2022	September 2023	All Staff
DSL/Deputy Headteacher J Savage	Headteacher J Wilson	V4	Governors	September 2023	September 2024	All Staff
DSL/Deputy Headteacher J Savage	Headteacher J Wilson	V5	Governors	September 2024	September 2025	All Staff

## **Commitment**

Banks Road Primary School's commitment to young carers is to support the emotional and academic needs of young carers to achieve their full potential, irrespective of complexities of needs and home.

## **Definition**

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with, or carrying out, a significant physical or emotional caring role and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be undertaken by an adult.

They can be caring for any of the following:

- Parent or sibling suffering from mental health issues
- Parent or sibling with a physical disability
- Parent or sibling with entrenched substance misuse problems
- Parent or sibling with learning disabilities
- Parent or sibling with a chronic or terminal illness

## **Young Carers and the effects on their education**

At Banks Road Primary School, we acknowledge that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems, such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (sometimes taking out their anger and frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation; embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self-esteem

## **Support offered**

Banks Road Primary School ensures that the following support is available for all young carers within our school:

- Banks Road Primary School has an identified young carer's representative – our Deputy Headteacher, Mr Savage. In his absence, Miss Gainey (Assistant Headteacher) will undertake the role.
- All staff are made aware of who their young carers representatives are.
- All staff are aware of how to share/ report information to these persons.
- The school has an internal effective reporting system between all staff and the young carers' representatives in line with our school safeguarding policy.
- Any child/ young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at our school will be referred to the appropriate services.
- When a young carer leaves the school, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next school subject to consent from the young carer and their family.

- Banks Road Primary School will be flexible with late attendance due to a young carer's caring role. Where this is a regular occurrence, provision will be put into place, complying with all current policy.
- Banks Road Primary School will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent and appropriate support is sourced.
- Banks Road Primary School acknowledges that young carers will not be obliged to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Banks Road Primary School will ensure young carers can access all available support services at school.
- Banks Road Primary School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Banks Road Primary School will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime for young carers to call home.
- Banks Road Primary School will ensure that young carers have access to a homework club.
- Banks Road Primary School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Banks Road Primary School will provide alternative communication options for parents of young carers who are sensory impaired or are housebound. This will include alternative communication options for parents' evenings.
- Appropriate provisions will be put in place for young carers whose parents do not drive due to illness or disability. Such actions will follow safeguarding procedures at all times.
- Banks Road Primary School will always report any cases of a child who may be carrying out an inappropriate caring role, which is causing immediate concern and/ or risk for their safety, in line with our safeguarding policy.
- Banks Road Primary School will commit to accessing and providing training for staff about young carers and their issues.