



# John Spence Community High School Young Carers Policy

Delegated to	Student Welfare Committee
Last reviewed	July 2024
To be reviewed	July 2028

## **Young Carers Policy**

John Spence Community High School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, the school is giving the message that young carers' education is important.

### **AIMS**

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students
- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

### **STRATEGIES**

1. To include space on school application forms for parents to declare:
  - a. Whether or not their child is a young carer
  - b. Whether or not their child is registered as a young carer
2. To work with North Tyneside Carers' Centre (NTCC) to ensure that all relevant school staff receive training around how to identify and support young carers
3. To create a young carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff
4. To appoint a member of the Governing Body who will be responsible for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to young carers
5. To appoint a young carers lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision
6. To appoint a member of staff to lead on young carer provision who will be responsible for maintaining a young carer support group and corresponding with external agencies such as North Tyneside Carers' Centre and North Tyneside Council to stay up to date on a young carer's circumstances and needs
7. To monitor the progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary

8. To monitor the attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
9. To make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case-by- case basis regarding issues such as lateness to school, late homework and poor attendance
10. To ensure that young carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary
11. To work with North Tyneside Carers' Centre to raise awareness of young carers and develop a culture of respect for young carers among the student community and also to encourage young carers to come forwards and make themselves known by delivering student assemblies and PSHE lessons
12. To offer young carers extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection for young carers
13. To support young carers in getting to and from the school where necessary
14. To ensure that young carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the school provision for young carers
15. To offer a programme of careers advice and guidance and, where possible, work experience placements
16. To maintain and regularly review our young carer's policy. This will be reviewed annually
17. To ensure the designated professional for young carers will liaise with relevant colleagues and other relevant agencies regarding their caring responsibilities, with the consent of the young carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated professional
18. To add the pupil to the vulnerable pupils' list and ensure they receive access to HAF (holiday and food funding) where appropriate
19. The school will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and staff will not discuss their situation in front of their peers
20. The school 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
21. The school will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality
22. The school will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school
23. The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
24. The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):
  - a. access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime to phone home
  - b. negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)
  - c. access to homework clubs (where these are available)
  - d. identifying support for them and their family to enable them to attend school trips and educational activities

- e. access for parents with impaired mobility
- f. alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound
- g. advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school
- h. Access to school for wider support i.e. food bank