



**FORGE  
VALLEY  
SCHOOL**  
& SIXTH FORM

# YOUNG CARER POLICY

<b>Date of Issue:</b>	September 2025
<b>Member of Staff Responsible:</b>	Helen Jackson, DSL.
<b>Ratified on:</b>	November 2025
<b>Ratified by:</b>	Full Governing Body: <i>S. Andrews</i> Mr S Andrews Co-Chair of Governors
<b>Review Date:</b>	November 2028

**Contents**

**Important contacts ..... 3**

**Aim..... 4**

**Definition..... 4**

**Our school ..... 4**

**We help young carers and their families know how to access support by ..... 5**

**We proactively identify young carers by ..... 5**

**Staff look for additional signs which might indicate a child is a you carer including..... 5**

**School reduces barriers to education and learning and supports young carers by ..... 5**

## 1. Important Contacts

Role / Organisation	Name	Contact Details
Executive Headteacher	Dale Barrowclough	dbarrowclough@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk
Headteacher	John Watson	jwatson@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk 0114 234 8805 ext 2650
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Helen Jackson	hjackson@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk 0114 234 8805 ext 2653
Designated Safeguarding Deputy (DSD)	Helena Bland  Martha Ridley  Laura Russell  Kirsty Grant	hbland@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk 0114 234 8805 ext 2656  mridley@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk 0114 234 8805 ext 2660  lrussell@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk 0114 234 8805 ext 2660  kgrant@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk 0114 234 8805 ext 2656
Designated Child Looked After Teacher	John Watson	jwatson@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk 0114 234 8805 ext 2655
Special Educational Needs Coordinator	Kate Heaton  Stephanie Benson	kheaton@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk 0114 234 8805 ext 2659  sbenson@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk 0114 234 8805 ext 2659
Chair of Governors Safeguarding Governor	Steve Andrews Helen Alderson	sandrews@taptonttrust.org.uk halderson@taptonttrust.org.uk
Special Educational Needs Governor	Christine McCann	cmccann@taptonttrust.org.uk
Sheffield Safeguarding Hub		0114 273 4855
Family Intervention Service (FIS), formerly Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST)	Business Support, Shortbrook Primary Site, Westfield Northway, Sheffield, S20 8FB	0114 203 7485 businesssupport@sheffield.gov.uk
Channel helpline		020 7340 7264

Please be aware that during weekends and school holidays you will not be able to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Designated Safeguarding Deputies. If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child or young person during these times, please contact the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub on 0114 2734855 (24 - hour service).

**If you think a child or a young person is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999 at any time.**

If you are a child or young person and are worried or feel unsafe then you can get help from Childline a free, private and confidential service where you can be you. You can chat online or on the phone, 0800 1111, any time.

## Aim

Forge Valley School is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

## Definition

A young carer is someone aged under 18 who cares for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without their support. Older young carers are also known as young adult carers and they may have different support needs to younger carers. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one person.

The person(s) they look after will have one or more of:

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young carer has to deal with can range from:

- **Practical tasks**, like cooking, housework and shopping.
- **Personal care**, such as helping someone out of bed, washing, dressing, helping to the toilet.
- **Emotional support**, including monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.
- **Financial help**, such as managing the family budget, paying bills.
- **Medical help**, such as giving medicine, collecting prescriptions.
- **Child care**, Looking after brothers and sisters as well as other care responsibilities.

We believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home.

When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, he or she may need a little extra support to help him or her get the most out of school. Our Young Carers Policy says how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

## Our School:

- Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help.
- Can put young carers in touch with the Sheffield Young Carers Service. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings.
- Respects your right to privacy and will only share information about you and your family with people who need to know to help you.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. detention, sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role.
- Allows young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Complies with the Disability Discrimination Act by offering disabled parents support to get their children into school.

**We help young carers and their families know how to access support by:**

- Displaying information, including signposting to other resources such as the young carers service and emotional wellbeing support, on the school digital displays, webpage and student planners.
- Using the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of and respect for, issues such as caring, disability and impairment, for example, embedding the challenges faced by young carers into PD lessons and delivering assemblies raising awareness of young carer issues.

**We proactively identify young carers by:**

- Using school enrolment and annual processes to check student information, to ask families whether the student has relatives who have an illness or disability, or who are affected by mental ill health or addiction problems and whether they would like more information about the types of support available to young carers.
- Checking School Census data on students with disabilities, to identify sibling carers.
- Implementing a self-identification system for students through an annual questionnaire.
- Asking feeder primary schools to inform us if a student has already been identified as a young carer.
- Checking whether any young carer status has been recorded on the Common Transfer File, the way schools send information about a pupil who leaves to join another school.

**Staff look for additional signs which might indicate a child is a you carer including:**

- Regular or increased lateness or absence.
- Concentration problems, anxiety, tiredness.
- Under-achievement and late or incomplete homework: may be a sudden unexplained drop in attainment.
- Few or no peer friendships; conversely the student may get on well with adults and present as very mature for their age.
- Victim of bullying, sometimes explicitly linked to a family member's disability, health or substance misuse problem.
- Behavioural problems, sometimes the result of anger or frustration expressed inappropriately.
- Unable to attend extra-curricular activities.
- Difficulties in engaging parents; parents not attending parents' evenings.

**School reduces barriers to education and learning and supports young carers by:**

- Considering the needs of young carers when planning and reviewing quality first teaching.
- Providing targeted interventions to students, including young carers, for example homework/coursework support; emotional support; health support or peer support groups.
- The school takes the needs of young carers into account when planning and delivering this support, for example running homework support at lunch-time.
- Being flexible, where appropriate, for example allowing young carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member; and negotiating deadlines for homework and coursework.
- Offering support to the student and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school/college/university lead for young carers and their families.
- Identifying young carers at risk of falling into the not in education, employment or training category and taking appropriate actions to address this.

Further information and support can be obtained from contacting the school safeguarding team via the school office or by email: 0114 234 8805 [info@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:info@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk)