

Title and Description	Young Carers Policy
------------------------------	----------------------------

Date of last review	May 2023
Approved by	Governors PDBA Sub-Committee
To be reviewed by	Governors PDBA Sub-Committee
Responsibility	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Review period	Bi-annually
Date of next review	May 2027

Document History			
Version	Date of Review	Author	Notes on Revision
2	May 2025	Michele Osborne	Wording changed with regard to Young Carers lead and Training. AI Summary added.

Young Carers Policy

Below is an AI generated summary of the full policy, produced to help make this document more accessible. The summary has been checked for accuracy, but the full policy remains the only completely accurate version.

Ethos and Values

- **Excellence, Compassion, and Respect for All:** The school promotes academic excellence and shared values of honesty, integrity, respect, and compassion. It aims for students to be ambitious, kind, resilient, hardworking, and passionate about learning.

British Values

- Staff are expected to uphold and promote fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Introduction

- **Definition of Young Carer:** A young person under 18 who looks after someone at home due to serious physical or mental illness, disability, substance misuse, or responsibility for a younger family member's safety and wellbeing.
- **Challenges:** Young carers may need extra support to achieve their potential due to responsibilities that exceed typical age-appropriate tasks.

Young Carer's Experience

- **Potential Issues:** Young carers may face lateness or absence, concentration problems, anxiety, emotional distress, tiredness, difficulty completing homework, poor attainment, anger, frustration, isolation, bullying, and low self-esteem.

Support Measures

- **Designated Staff:** A designated member of staff with special responsibility for young carers.
- **Awareness and Resources:** Informing new students about the designated staff, providing resources, connecting young carers with local services, and raising awareness about their challenges.
- **Privacy and External Liaison:** Respecting privacy, sharing information only when necessary, liaising with external agencies with consent, and following child protection procedures.
- **Staff Training and Accessibility:** Training staff to recognize signs of young carers, allowing young carers to contact home during breaks, involving parents/carers with mobility/communication difficulties, and providing support groups.
- **Enrichment Opportunities:** Offering enrichment and reward opportunities for young carers.

Monitoring and Review

- **Review Process:** Conducted bi-annually by the relevant member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), reporting to the Personal Development, Behaviour, and Attitudes Sub-committee.
- **Accreditation:** The school is accredited with the Young Carer's Charter and aims to continue raising the profile of young carers.

This Policy outlines the school's commitment to supporting young carers and ensuring they have the resources and opportunities to succeed academically and personally.

Framwellgate School Durham: Ethos and Values Statement

Excellence, Compassion and Respect for All

Our school promotes academic excellence and embraces the shared values of honesty, integrity, respect and compassion. We want our students to be ambitious, kind, resilient and hardworking, and have a genuine passion for learning. We want them to change the world with the knowledge, skills and confidence they have learned here; to champion fairness, build friendships for life, and have pride in our school. Above all, we want our students to be happy.

British Values

All staff are expected to uphold and promote fundamental British Values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

1. Introduction

At Framwellgate School Durham, we believe that every student should be able to learn, achieve and enjoy their school career regardless of their home circumstances. A young carer is therefore defined as a young person under 18 years of age who has to look after someone at home. This may be because that person has a serious physical or mental illness, a disability, a substance misuse problem or because the young person is responsible for a younger member of the family's safety and wellbeing. The level of support they give might be more than is considered appropriate for their age and not just helping out at home which would normally be part of a growing-up process. This all means that these young carers could occasionally need a little extra support or encouragement to help them get the most from school and achieve their potential.

2. A Young Carer's Experience

At Framwellgate School Durham we recognise that a student may:

- be late or absent because of responsibilities at home;
- have concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school;
- be emotionally distressed;
- be tired in school;
- have little time to complete homework;
- have poor attainment;
- become angry or frustrated;
- feel isolated and think that no-one understands;
- have issues with bullying;
- have low self-esteem.

3. Support

In order to support our young carers, we will:

- have a designated member of staff with special responsibility for young carers who will take part in relevant training where necessary.
- let all new students know who the designated member of staff is;
- ensure that all young carers have access to resources to support them to overcome their experiences as listed above;
- put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service;
- raise awareness across the school community of what it means to be a young carer and the challenges faced by them;

- respect the right to privacy and only share information with people who need to know in order to help a young carer;
- with the consent of the young carer and the person with parental responsibility, liaise with external agencies where appropriate;
- follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring;
- raise staff awareness of the role of young carers and consider how best to support them should any after school sanctions become necessary;
- allow young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtime when required;
- ensure that staff are given the appropriate training to recognise the warning signs which may indicate that a student is a young carer;
- be accessible to parents/carers who have mobility/communication difficulties and involve them in progress evenings, etc;
- provide a support group in school where young carers can speak to each other and share issues if they want to;
- offer enrichment/reward opportunities for the young carer that they might not usually have access to.

4. Monitoring and Review

This will be carried out by the relevant appropriate member of the SLT who will report to the Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes Sub-committee. Information shared will include the number of young carers per year group and success of the programme. Framwellgate School Durham has been accredited with the Young Carer's Charter as part of the Young Carers Neighbourhood Charter and we will continue to raise the profile of Young Carers in school.