Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust

KINGSBROOK VIEW
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Growing together to achieve dreams

Young Carer Policy

Policy Type	Pupil Wellbeing and Attainment
Updated by	Alisha Oakley
Updated in	September 2026
Review due	September 2028

Statement

At Kingsbrook View Primary Academy, we believe that every child has the right to an education and to achieve their full potential, regardless of their circumstances at home.

We recognise that some pupils have caring responsibilities for a family member and that this may affect their attendance, attainment, behaviour, relationships, learning, mental health and emotional wellbeing. We are committed to identifying young carers as early as possible and ensuring that they receive appropriate support to enable them to participate fully in school life and achieve their potential.

This policy sets out how the academy will seek to identify young carers, raise awareness of the challenges they may experience and provide appropriate support. We will work with pupils, parents/carers and relevant external agencies, including relevant local services and referral pathways, where appropriate.

This policy should be read alongside the academy's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Attendance Policy, Behaviour Policy and SEND Policy.

Young Carer Lead

The academy's designated Young Carer Lead is **Miss Oakley**.

The Young Carer Lead is responsible for coordinating the academy's support for young carers and can provide:

- regular check-ins and meetings;
- a safe opportunity for pupils to talk about their caring responsibilities;
- information, advice and signposting;
- support with accessing appropriate internal and external services; and
- liaison with parents/carers and relevant professionals where appropriate.

Pupils can approach the Young Carer Lead directly if they would like to talk about their caring responsibilities or if they are experiencing difficulties as a result of their caring role.

The Young Carer Lead will work closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) where there are concerns about a pupil's welfare or where safeguarding procedures need to be followed.

Defining a Young Carer

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 who provides care or practical or emotional support to a family member who has a disability, a long-term physical or mental health condition, or who misuses substances.

Caring responsibilities may include:

- helping with household tasks;
- providing personal care;
- providing emotional support;
- helping a family member to communicate;
- helping to look after siblings; or
- taking on responsibilities for themselves or other family members as a result of the caring situation.

A young carer's responsibilities may be greater than would normally be expected of a child of their age.

Not every child who helps at home is a young carer. The nature, frequency and impact of the caring responsibilities should be considered when identifying whether a pupil may benefit from young carer support.

Identification of Young Carers

Kingsbrook View Primary Academy recognises that many young carers may not identify themselves as having a caring role and may therefore remain hidden.

Young carers may be identified through a range of routes, including:

- self-identification by the pupil;
- information provided by a parent or carer;
- information shared by a member of staff;
- changes in attendance, behaviour, attainment or wellbeing;
- information from another professional or agency; or
- discussions with the pupil about their home circumstances.

All staff should remain alert to the possibility that a pupil may have caring responsibilities, including where there are changes in attendance, behaviour, presentation, concentration, emotional wellbeing or academic progress.

Where a member of staff identifies a potential young carer, they should share this information with the Young Carer Lead and, where appropriate, the DSL or deputy DSL in accordance with the academy's safeguarding procedures.

Once a pupil has been identified as a potential young carer, the academy will discuss appropriate support with the pupil and their parent/carer. Where appropriate, permission will be sought from the parent/carer for the pupil to join the academy's Young Carer Register and access relevant support.

Parental consent is not required where information needs to be shared in accordance with safeguarding procedures or where there is a concern that a child may be at risk of harm. Any safeguarding concerns must be managed in accordance with the academy's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Our Academy:

- Will provide training and information to staff members on how to identify young carers and signpost them to the relevant support.

- Will proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face as well as the support that is available (for example: during class, assemblies, PSHE sessions)

- Will provide a safe space for supervised peer support activities or groups, where appropriate, enabling young carers to meet and share experiences in an age-appropriate and supportive environment.

- Will make referrals to other organisations where appropriate and with the family and pupil's permission.

- Will welcome visits from the Young Carers Project to work with pupils referred for support so they can meet in a safe setting for 1:1 support sessions.

- Will respect the child's right to privacy and only shares information about them and their family with people who need to know. Their home situation and caring role will not be discussed in front of their peers.

- Will treat young carers in a sensitive, respectful and child-centred way, recognising and respecting their caring role while ensuring that their own education, wellbeing and development remain central.
- Will consider whether a young carer's caring responsibilities are affecting their attendance, attainment, behaviour, relationships, learning or mental health and wellbeing, and put appropriate support in place where required.

Safeguarding

Being a young carer does not in itself mean that a child is at risk of harm. However, caring responsibilities can increase a child's vulnerability and may affect their wellbeing, attendance, behaviour or educational outcomes.

Staff should follow the academy's safeguarding procedures if they have any concerns about a young carer's safety or welfare.

The Young Carer Lead will work with the DSL to ensure that appropriate safeguarding and early help arrangements are considered where necessary.

Information about a pupil's caring responsibilities will be recorded and shared appropriately, recognising that safeguarding and data protection requirements take precedence over promises of absolute confidentiality.

Monitoring and Review

The academy will monitor the identification and support of young carers to ensure that pupils' needs are being recognised and appropriately addressed.

The Young Carer Lead will work with the senior leadership team to review the effectiveness of the academy's young carer provision and identify any further training, awareness-raising or support required.

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the academy's policy review cycle and updated where there are changes to statutory guidance, local services or the needs of pupils and families.