

## Young Carers Policy Aurora Eccles School

<b>Policy Reference:</b>	ECS12
<b>Version Number:</b>	3.1
<b>Applies to:</b>	Aurora Eccles School
<b>Associated documents:</b>	Child Protection Policy
<b>Approved by:</b>	Principal
<b>Implementation date:</b>	March 2026
<b>Next review due by:</b>	March 2027
<i>This policy has been reviewed to ensure it promotes safeguarding and does not present barriers to participation or disadvantage any protected groups</i>	

## Important contacts:

ROLE/ORGANISATION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Young Carers Champion	Lisa Boyle	<a href="mailto:Lisa.Boyle@theauroragroup.co.uk">Lisa.Boyle@theauroragroup.co.uk</a> 01953 887217
SLT Young Carers Champion	Jo Pinyoun	<a href="mailto:Joanne.Pinyoun@theauroragroup.co.uk">Joanne.Pinyoun@theauroragroup.co.uk</a> 07387411606/01953 887217

## 1. Aims

At Aurora Eccles we believe that all young people have the right to an education. If a young person looks after someone, we know that they may need additional support to help them get the most out of their education, and we aim to meet their needs. This policy outlines the site procedures in respect of Young Carers in order that they can be monitored and reviewed at a group level.

## 2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice/legislation:

### *The Care Act 2014 – Care & Support Statutory Guidance-*

" The Children and Families Act's definition of a young carer Children should not undertake inappropriate or excessive caring roles that may have an impact on their development. A young carer becomes vulnerable when their caring role risks impacting upon their emotional or physical wellbeing and their prospects in education and life. A local authority may become aware that a child is carrying out a caring role through an assessment or informed through family members or a school. A local authority should consider how supporting the adult with needs for care and support can prevent the young carer from undertaking excessive or inappropriate care and support responsibilities. Where a young carer is identified, the local authority must undertake a young carer's assessment under part 3 of the Children Act 1989.

### *The Childrens Act 1989 (Sec 17 amended by the Children & Families Act 2014 Sec 96)*

A local authority in England must assess whether a young carer within their area has needs for support and, if so, what those needs are, if:

- (a) it appears to the authority that the young carer may have needs for support, or
- (b) the authority receives a request from the young carer or a parent of the young carer to assess the young carer's needs for support.

## 3. Scope

This policy affects all young carers and their families, all staff within our school and also local caring services ie The Benjamin Foundation, Young Carers Matters Norfolk and Suffolk Family Carers.

## 4. Roles and responsibilities

### 4.1 The Site Lead will:

4.1.1 Allocate a named member of staff as a Young Carers Champion who has a special responsibility to support Young Carers.

4.1.2 Ensure accurate recording of Young Carers on Engage.

4.1.3 Ensure implementation of this policy.

### 4.2 The Young Carers Champion will:

4.2.1 Identify who the Young Carers are in our school.

4.2.2 Let all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help.

4.2.3 Co-ordinate the Engagement Team to provide individual listening support and facilitate a support group for young carers.

4.2.4 Create a Worry box with the Young Carers, for the Young Carers to use.

4.2.5 Survey the Young Carers around the Eccles School's young carer provision.

4.2.6 Facilitate contact with Young Carers Matter Norfolk/Suffolk Family Carers to request a Young Carers Needs Assessment where appropriate.

4.2.7 Maintain an Information board displaying information about support available and details of the next meeting time.

4.2.8 Provide annual young carers awareness training for staff.

4.2.9 Educate all students on young carers to help all pupils understand the issues, carers' rights, and the support available, and create a 'carer-friendly' culture.

4.2.10 Discuss emergency planning for a Young Carer if required.

4.2.11 Hold a Young Carers awareness Assembly for students annually.

### 4.3 Staff will:

4.3.1 Respect your right to privacy and will only share information about you and your family with people who need to know to help you.

4.3.2 Allow young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes if necessary and appropriate.

4.3.4 Involve young carers in decision making around support, groups, and information.

## 5. Definitions

*The Children & Families Act 2014 – A young Carer is a “child or young person under the age of 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person”.*

By ‘care’ we mean:

- Practical: A young carer may be helping with cleaning, cooking, laundry, shopping, paying bills, managing household budgets and even helping to collect and give medicine. They could be looking after a sibling while parents are busy. A young carer could be acting as an advocate with health or social care professionals if parents or guardians have mental health issues or learning disabilities. They can also act as an interpreter when English is an additional language or lack digital skills.
- Emotional: May provide a listening ear, comforting, helping the cared for feel better about themselves, talking to someone who is distressed (e.g low because of illness/mental health)
- Personal: A young carer may assist to help someone to get dressed or wash, helping to feed them or to take their medication.
- Physical: A young carer may be supporting a family member with a disability to move ie. getting up from their seat /out of bed, helping them to get around in and outside of the home. Or they may be carrying heavy shopping bags.

## 6. Potential Indicators

Indicators that a child or young person may be a young carer include:

- Often late or absent from school or college/further education with little explanation.
- Falling behind on schoolwork
- Stopping participating in youth groups, clubs, or sporting activities without explanation
- Often tired, anxious, withdrawn, or worried.
- Isolated from peers, struggles to attend extra-curricular activities and trips.
- Secretive about home life
- Showing signs of poor hygiene or diet
- Displaying disruptive behaviour.
- Refers to their parents/guardians/sibling as frequently being unwell.
- Talks openly about family health issues often with more knowledge than might be expected of peers e.g., around medication.
- Becomes uncomfortable when addressing various health topics.

Young carers may also be identified through the circumstances and behaviours of their family members.

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- Parents/adults/siblings experiencing illness, disability, mental ill health or have a history of substance misuse.
- Parents often missing appointments with school/other professionals
- Parents who are difficult to communicate with eg. frequently do not respond to requests

## **7. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed every year by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.