

**NEW PARK ACADEMY**

**YOUNG CARERS AND THEIR FAMILIES POLICY**

**FIRST CREATED SEPT 2012: - EDITION 1**

<b>EDITION NO.</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	<b>FGB APPROVAL DATE:</b>
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<b>2</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 2015</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>DECEMBER 2016</b>	<b>28/02/2017</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>FEB 2018</b>	<b>22/3/2018</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>FEB 2019</b>	<b>7/2/2019</b>
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<b>7</b>	<b>JAN. 2021</b>	<b>04/02/2021</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>JULY . 2023</b>	<b>19/10/2023</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>JULY 2024</b>	<b>No changes</b>

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Policy Agreed	<b>19/10/23</b>
To be reviewed	<b>JULY 2025</b>
Owner	<b>LAURA CLEGG</b>
Designation	<b>DEPUTY HEADTEACHER</b>

## **Background**

Young carers are children under 18 who provide care, assistance or support to another family member. They provide this care on a regular basis and it is significant and substantial, requiring a level of responsibility that would normally be undertaken by an adult.

For some young carers, their caring responsibilities can have a serious impact upon their health, education and well-being. Caring responsibilities can result in problems at school, emotional difficulties, health problems, lack of time for leisure and lack of recognition for the children and young people affected.

In terms of young carers' education, caring responsibilities can have an effect on school attendance, ability to concentrate, behaviour, relationships with peers, homework, and performance in exams.

Young carers can often go unrecognised, and this is a problem nationally, not just in Salford.

*“The nature of caring is often such that young carers can disappear from the social radar to the extent that they become a seldom heard group within the overall population. If they continue to fulfil their caring role, and do not demand interventions in their own right, there is often little likelihood that they will come to the attention of anyone outside their normal domestic circle.”*

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) Research briefing – May 2008

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It is therefore likely that within Salford schools, there are significant numbers of unidentified young carers. As many of them will be children in need, all agencies, including schools, should be working together to ensure that young carers get the required support to enable them to achieve better outcomes.

## **Aims**

Our aims in developing our Young Carers policy at New Park Academy are:

- To ensure that we have a working policy that supports young carers and their families in both a whole school and holistic approach.
- To ensure that the policy is translated and embedded into school and curriculum plans.
- To monitor the effectiveness of policies in relation to young carers and their families.
- To provide opportunities for pupils and their families to feed their ideas into any support that is being developed.

## **Introduction**

At New Park Academy, we are aware that pupils in our school may well have caring roles at home. We believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities.

When a young person does look after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, they may need a little extra support to help them get the most out of school. We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers and to have a separate policy for young carers stating how we will support any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

We aim to support young carers through a whole-school approach and through working with other agencies and professionals, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the young carer.

Our policy is informed and underpinned by the following principles:

- The school views young carers as any other pupil, but understands that they have the additional burden of caring responsibilities.  
The school will keep up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families, and is committed to meeting the needs of young carers so that they are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers.
- A school lead will be assigned and will have special responsibility for young carers and their families. **At New Park Academy, the advocate for young carers is Laura Clegg.** Pupils and families will be made aware of the identity of the school's lead.
- Training on young carers' issues will be embedded in ongoing professional development for all staff.
- During the school enrolment process for new pupils, the school will identify whether: parent(s) or family members have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health problems and/or the pupil helps to look after them and if this has an impact on their education.
- The school will use and evaluate data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by young carers.
- The school will aim to offer support to improve attendance and pupils' well-being. The right to pupils' and families' privacy will be respected and the school will only share information with professionals and agencies on a "need to know basis" in order to support pupils and families.
- Information about support available for young carers and how to access it will be made clearly available to both pupils and families.
- The school recognises that young carers and their families need to receive coordinated support by the school, working in partnership where appropriate with general practitioners, young carers' services and education support teams.
- Young carers will be referred or signposted to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate, including the local young carers' service.
- The school will refer or signpost families to other support services when appropriate.
- The school adheres to the *Disability Discrimination Acts (1995, 2005)* and Single Equality act 2010
- The school is accessible to parents with disabilities and/or illness, offering additional support to enable them to attend parents' evenings or other school events. Home visits will be considered where appropriate.

- The school will identify those young carers at risk of falling into the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) category and take appropriate actions to address this.
- The school will offer support to the young person and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school/college lead for young carers and their families.
- Relevant aspects of the curriculum will be used to encourage positive approaches by all teachers and staff working with young carers.
- The school will use 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 RSE lessons curriculum.
- The school will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities, such as sports coaching or concerts, due to their caring role. The school will also consider lunch time detentions rather than after school ones.
- The school will allow 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.
- Other appropriate policies, such as a bullying policy, will take young carers into account.

### **Salford current offer:**

#### Help for young carers

If you're a young carer, you can contact the young carers workers. We'll:

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- make space for a chat
  - assess (find out about) your caring responsibilities to see if there is anything else we can help with
  - advise and support you on school issues
  - put you in contact with groups/project work/activities away from school
  - support you away from school

We will only talk to the school about you if you agree we can or if you are in danger.

#### Help for schools

- Group and individual support to young carers on your school's role
- Help developing a school policy statement on young carers
- Awareness session for all pupils
- Awareness sessions for all school employees
- Regular drop-in sessions within school for known young carers and new referrals
- Support and consultation on young carer issues

#### Who to contact

- Salford Carers Centre: 0161 834 6069
- Young carers mobile: 0779 983 1711
- School liaison mobile: 0752 794 5977
- Email: [salford.carers@gaddum.co.uk](mailto:salford.carers@gaddum.co.uk)