



Burnside College

Young Carers Policy

2024 - 2025

Our Vision

To ensure that all the children and young people in our care have the opportunity to fulfil their potential and that they are supported where needed to ensure they access the full curriculum and extra curricular opportunities in line with their peers.

School Aims

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers
- To improve and monitor the attendance of young carers
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students
- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities including extra curricular opportunities
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities

- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

Context:

The definition of a young carer is as defined in section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014 as “a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person (of any age, except where that care is provided for payment, pursuant to a contract or voluntary work). This relates to care for any family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances”.

From April 2015 The Care Act and The Children and Families Act (both 2014) will redefine the way the Local Authority works to support young carers and their families.

Responsibilities for identifying and supporting young carers are placed on the Local Authority as a whole and are set out in the Children’s Act 1989 (including insertions made by the Children and Families Act 2014) and under the Care Act 2014.

Section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014 introduces new rights for young carers in order to improve how young carers and their families are identified and supported.

From April 2015 all young carers will be entitled to an assessment of their needs from the Local Authority and a transition assessment as they approach adulthood. This new provision works alongside measures in The Care Act for assessing adults to enable a “whole family approach” to providing assessment and support.

To meet eligibility for a service from the local authority, children and young people must:

- Meet this **definition** of a young carer
- Be undertaking **age inappropriate care** (in terms of what they do or the degree to which they do it)
- Be **negatively impacted** as a result of their care role, i.e their physical/mental health, education, employment, training, emotional and behavioural development, identity, family, social and peer relationships.

We do appreciate that some students do not wish to be identified as young carers with the Local Authority. Where this is the case we still fulfil a pastoral duty to ensure that they are provided with resources and support to overcome their barriers. Families are welcome to contact us at any time to discuss what we can do to help. We appreciate that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person’s caring role will be acknowledged and respected and we will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.

Background:

Young carers often experience difficulties in their education. They may struggle to attend their educational setting and make good progress. Their caring role may impact upon their emotional and physical wellbeing. Identifying and supporting young carers is an effective way of improving the attainment and attendance of this pupil group. We believe that by supporting young carers and their families we can strengthen families and support parenting.

A young carer may do all or some of the following:

- Practical tasks, such as preparing meals and drinks.
- Physical care, such as lifting, helping a parent on stairs or with physiotherapy.
- Personal care, such as washing, dressing, administering medication, changing dressings, and/or helping with toileting needs.
- Domestic tasks, such as cleaning, managing the family budget, paying bills, collecting benefits and prescriptions.
- Looking after younger siblings.
- Emotional/Mental Health support and care, such as staying at home to keep the person they care for company and making sure medication is correctly prescribed.
- Interpreting, due to a hearing or speech impediment or because English is not the family's first language.

Policy

The school will:

1. Include space on school application forms for parents to declare:
 - a. Whether or not their child is a young carer
 - b. Whether or not their child is registered as a young carer
2. Work with North Tyneside Carers' Centre (NTCC) to ensure that all relevant school staff receive training around how to identify and support young carers
3. Create a young carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff
4. Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
5. Appoint a member of the Governing Body who will be responsible for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to young carers
6. Deputy Headteacher Helen Patterson will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision
7. Named Young Carers Champion (Lauren Kinsley) who will be responsible for maintaining a young carer peer support group and corresponding with external agencies such as North Tyneside Carers' Centre and North Tyneside Council to stay up to date on a young carer's circumstances and needs
8. Monitor the academic progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary

9. Monitor the attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
10. Make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case by case basis as needed
11. Ensure that young carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary
12. Work with North Tyneside Carers' Centre to raise awareness of young carers and develop a culture of respect for young carers among the student community and also to encourage young carers to come forwards and make themselves known by delivering student assemblies and guidance lessons
13. Offer young carers extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection for young carers
14. Support young carers in getting to and from the school where necessary using the school minibuses
15. Ensure that young carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the school provision for young carers
16. Offer a bespoke programme of careers advice and guidance through NERAP
17. Ensure they receive access to HAF (holiday and food funding) where appropriate from North Tyneside including a free EASE card

Reviewed by HP - Nov 2024

Ratified by Governors - Dec 2024