



Brookland Infant and Nursery School

Young Carers' Policy 2025

Statement of Intent

Brookland Infant and Nursery School believes that all children are entitled to learn in a safe and supportive environment. Our aim is to create a nurturing, inclusive environment where young carers feel safe, understood, and supported. We are committed to ensuring that any young carer in our school is identified early, treated with sensitivity and given the support they need to thrive both at school and at home. We will work in partnership with families and agencies to ensure young carers' needs are recognised and met. Although our children are very young, we understand that young carers may face unique challenges that can affect their wellbeing, learning, attendance and ability to fully engage in school life.

Definition

A young carer is a child under 18 who provides, or is involved in providing, care, assistance or support to a family member who has:

- A physical or learning disability
- A long-term illness or life limiting illness or health condition
- A mental health difficulty
- A substance misuse issue
- A significant need for support in daily living

As the children at Brookland Infant and Nursery School are quite young we know that caring roles may include:

- Helping with practical tasks (fetching items, helping siblings)
- Providing emotional comfort
- Helping to communicate for a parent with language or health barriers
- Being overly aware of adult worries or responsibilities
- Missing out on age-appropriate activities

Aims of the Young Carer's Policy

At Brookland Infant and Nursery School we aim to create a school environment where young carers feel safe to share their experiences and confident that their needs will be met. We will:

- Promote a warm, nurturing culture where all pupils are valued and included
- Ensure staff are aware of the signs of young caring and know how to respond
- Offer practical and emotional support tailored to each child's needs
- Work collaboratively with families while respecting their privacy

- Help young carers enjoy childhood, learning, play, and friendships
- Promote the well-being and educational achievement of all young carers
- Ensure early identification and appropriate support is in place
- Reduce barriers to attendance, participation of enrichment activities, and/or learning
- Maintain confidentiality while always prioritising the child's safety
- Raise staff awareness so young carers can be supported consistently
- Being overly aware of adult worries or responsibilities
- Signpost families to external young carer services and early help where beneficial
- Work with parents to reduce caring pressures wherever possible
- Have an identified member of staff who is the 'young carer's champion'

It is important to recognise that even small responsibilities may have a big impact on a young child.

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Ensure policy implementation
- Allocate resources to support young carers
- Oversee staff training and safeguarding compliance

Young Carers Lead

- Maintain a confidential record of identified young carers
- Liaise with parents and external agencies
- Ensure that key staff/class teachers are informed of which children in their class are young carers
- Support the 'Young Carers Champion' in their role

School Staff

- Know the signs that may indicate a child is a young carer
- Share concerns with the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)/Young Carers Lead
- Provide empathy and support in the classroom
- Adapt classroom expectations where appropriate

Governors

- Monitor implementation of the policy
- Ensure support for vulnerable pupils is prioritised

Procedures for Identification

Young carers may be identified through:

- Parent/carer disclosure during admission or meetings
- Concerns raised by staff who notice signs
- Information from external agencies
- Child's own comments (direct or indirect)

Staff will be alert to signs that may indicate a child is young carer:

- Tiredness or frequent lateness
- Poor or inconsistent attendance
- Worry, distraction, or emotional distress
- Difficulty completing homework
- Over-mature behaviour or reluctance to leave a parent
- Limited participation in clubs or social activities with their peers
- Talking about responsibilities at home

Confidentiality

- Information will be handled sensitively and shared only with relevant staff
- Conversations with parents will be calm, respectful, and supportive
- The child's safety and well-being will always come first

Young carers may be supported through:

- Regular pastoral check-ins with the Young Carers Champion or other trusted adult
- Access to quiet time or emotional regulation spaces
- Invitation to attend "Jenny's Club".
- Monitoring for any impact on academic or social progress
- Access to school based play therapy if needed/available

Working with Parents

- Offer practical help where possible (e.g. signposting early help, health professionals, social care if needed, community organisations)
- Maintain supportive, non-judgmental communication
- Agree on reasonable adjustments in school
- Clarify the child's role at home to ensure caring responsibilities are safe and age-appropriate

Staff Training

All staff will receive periodic training on:

- Understanding how to identify young carers
- Recognising signs and indicators of potential young carers
- Using the school's referral process
- Supporting young carers in the classroom
- Safeguarding responsibilities

This policy links to:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Equality and Inclusion Policies
- Anti-bullying, Behaviour Management and Mental Health and Wellbeing Policies

Useful websites:

Barnet Young Carers – www.barnetcarers.org

Carers UK – www.carers.org

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will review this policy every 3 years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Review date: October 2028