



Culford

Young Carers Policy

At Culford School we believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their situation at home. When a young person has a caring responsibility they may need extra support to help them get the most out of school. We work closely with [Suffolk Family Carers](#) to appropriately support the child and family.

We define a Young Carer as a young person who has caring responsibilities for a family member with a disability, health condition or substance misuse issue. Young carers may provide physical care, personal care, help with medication or practical tasks, or provide emotional support. This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home.

We engage proactively with parents and guardians and encourage open and transparent conversations, to ensure the individual needs of the child are met and a bespoke offer of support is in place.

Culford School:

- Has a team of trained Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) with special responsibility for young carers, and informs all identified young carers who the member of staff is, and what they can do to help. The DSLs will work closely with tutors, boarding staff and the Health Centre to ensure needs are met.
- Will provide training and information to staff members on how to identify young carers and signpost them to the relevant support. (INSET JAN 25)
- Will proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face as well as the available support (for example during form/tutor time, assemblies, and Learning for Life sessions)
- Will provide a safe and confidential space for peer support groups where a need is identified, and overseen by a member of staff, allowing young carers in the school to provide emotional support to each other regarding their caring role.
- Makes referrals to the [Suffolk Family Carers](#) where appropriate and with the family and young person's permission.
- Welcomes visits from the [Suffolk Family Carers](#) to work with pupils referred for support so they can meet in a safe setting for 1:1 support sessions.
- Will provide information on our support for young carers on our website for current and prospective pupils and parents. (To be actioned once policy agreed)
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend extracurricular activities due to their caring role.
- Will seek to provide alternatives, including access to lessons online, if a young carer is unable to attend school because of their caring commitments
- Will seek to amend expectations about completing work to a deadline whilst ensuring academic potential is not compromised.

- Will allow young carers access to a phone to contact home during breaks and lunchtimes to ensure their emotional needs are met as appropriate.
- Is physically accessible and has accessible information available to parents who have mobility or communication difficulties.
- Will not make assumptions about family members with disabilities, mental and physical health conditions or substance misuse issues, or label young people and their families.
- Respect the young person's right to privacy and only share 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.
- Treats young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality. The young person's caring role is acknowledged and respected.
- Includes young carers in any existing transition package so that relevant support is highlighted to the young person.
- Offers rest breaks during the day under the supervision of the Health Centre where a need is identified.
- Will offer boarding on an ad hoc or regular basis to offer respite for a Young Carer.