



Dallimore Primary and Nursery School

Young Carers Policy

Date adopted: May 2026

Review date: May 2028

Statement of Commitment

Dallimore Primary and Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We recognise that some pupils may have caring responsibilities at home and that this can impact on their wellbeing, attendance and learning.

Introduction

This policy sets out how Dallimore Primary and Nursery School will identify, support and work with young carers and their families. It aims to ensure young carers are recognised early and supported to access education on an equal basis with their peers.

Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is a child or young person who helps to look after someone at home. This may include caring for a parent, sibling, grandparent or another relative.

The person they care for may have:

- A physical disability (including sensory impairment)
- A learning disability
- A mental health difficulty
- A chronic illness
- Substance misuse issues

Caring Responsibilities

Young carers may take on responsibilities beyond what is appropriate for their age, including:

- Nursing care (medication, mobility support)
- Personal or intimate care
- Emotional support
- Domestic tasks such as cooking and cleaning
- Financial responsibilities
- Caring for siblings

Identification of Young Carers

Young carers are not always visible. Staff are trained to recognise indicators and concerns are addressed through safeguarding and inclusion processes. Identified pupils are recorded confidentially and reviewed regularly.

Factors which may indicate that a young person is caring include:

- Illness or disability within the family
- Being late or absent (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and/or often tired
- Academic performance below potential
- Homework is often incomplete
- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- Not making use of out-of-school facilities
- Mature and responsible but can 'let go' and behave immaturely when in a safe environment
- Behavioral problems
- Limited contact with school by parents

Possible impact on education

Dallimore Primary and Nursery School acknowledges that there are likely to be a significant number of young carers in school and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education.

Caring responsibilities may affect:

- Attendance and punctuality
- Concentration and fatigue
- Emotional wellbeing
- Homework completion
- Attainment and progress
- Access to enrichment and social opportunities

School Support

Dallimore Primary and Nursery School will:

- Provide a designated link teacher with special responsibility for young carers: a 'Young Carers Champion' who will be the main point of contact for all issues pertaining to young carers and who will support colleagues to understand the

challenges that young carers may face. This named member of staff will also liaise with relevant colleagues, Derbyshire Young Carers Service and other relevant agencies with the consent of the young carer and their family.

- Provide young carers with opportunities to speak to the Young Carers Champion privately in order to share their concerns.
- Ensure that the whole school is committed to meeting the needs of Young Carers and that pupils have access to the appropriate information regarding the support that is available.
- Respect the family and Young Carer's right to privacy - we will only share information on a need-to-know basis.
- Treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centered way, upholding confidentiality whilst considering a whole family approach.
- Ensure young carers can access all available support services in school and will inform young carers of the specialist support available to them from Derbyshire Young Carers Service. The school will refer a prospective young carer to Derbyshire Young Carers Service with the consent of the young person and parent/parents.
- Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to an inappropriate caring role. For example, a referral to Starting Point will be made if we are concerned that the young carer may be the victim of neglect, abuse, cruelty or at risk of immediate or significant harm, or to request an assessment.
- Promote discussion and learning in all areas of curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance and respect for the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.
- Put young carers' family in touch with local Young Carers Service and other organisations who can offer support.
- Consider the role of the school nurse in supporting improved health outcomes and reduce inequalities of family/child experience.
- Incorporate into individual pupil plans recognition and support for the positive aspects of the young carer's role, as well as providing the personalised support necessary to enable young carers to attend and enjoy school.
- Be accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involve them in parents' evening and other school activities.
- Use feedback from young carers and their families to inform our policies and practices.
- Ensure that school policies, such as those for enrolment, attendance, bullying and behaviour afford recognition to young carers.

Available provision includes (but is not restricted to):

- Access to a telephone during break times
- Support getting home/to hospitals in cases of emergency
- An awareness of the impact of being a young carer on attendance and punctuality
- Someone to talk to who understands, will listen and not judge.
- Arrangements for schoolwork to be sent home when necessary
- Consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out-of-school activities e.g. after-school clubs, concerts, trips away and support where possible
- Ensure parents can access school for open days, parents' evenings etc and if this is not possible, consider how links can be made with home.
- Implement an effective PSHE curriculum to explore the rights of children, the roles and responsibilities of young carers, and the challenges they face. PSHE lessons and assemblies will promote positive images of disability, challenging stereotypes and discrimination.
- Adopt a healthy attitude to different illnesses and reduce stigmas attached to illnesses such as Mental Health problems and disabilities.
- Avoid stigmatisation or labelling of pupils who are carers and provide guidance on preventing bullying.
- Ensure we comply with the Disability Discrimination Act by offering disabled parents support to get their children to school and provide advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school.
- Consider how information on pupils' pastoral needs can be effectively passed between primary and secondary school or across other phases.
- Include mechanisms to consult with young carers and their parents about content of policies and delivery of support.
- Include methods of regularly evaluating the effectiveness of policy and support (in addition to meeting Ofsted requirements).
- Treat a disclosure with sensitivity. Discuss with the child, depending upon their age what support they would like, approaching the parent/carer with the child's permission.
- Access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound.
- Agreed Personal Support Plan - to set targets and discuss aspirations and improve education outcomes for young carers.
- School to collate statistics to measure success and identify areas needing improvement. We will monitor and evaluate data on the young carers we have

identified, to examine the progress they have made to review and amend the offer of support as appropriate. We will share this data with the LA if necessary.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Young Carers Lead at Dallimore Primary and Nursery School is Matthew Gotheridge. He has overall responsibility for the identification, monitoring and support of young carers and for liaison with external agencies.

All staff are responsible for remaining vigilant, raising concerns and supporting young carers in line with safeguarding procedures.

Confidentiality and Safeguarding

Information relating to young carers will be handled sensitively and confidentially. Safeguarding concerns will be managed in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and statutory guidance.

Derbyshire Support for Young Carers

Where appropriate, Dallimore Primary and Nursery School will signpost families to local support services. In Derbyshire, this includes the Derbyshire Young Carers Service, which offers assessment, advice and practical support for young carers and their families.

Derbyshire Young Carers Service:

Telephone: 01773 833833

Email: youngcarers@derbyshirecarers.co.uk

Website: <https://derbyshirecarers.co.uk/young-carers-service>

Date of policy: May 2026

Date of next review: May 2027