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**Title of Policy/Procedure** Young Carers

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**Reviewer(s):** Deputy Headteacher

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**To be read in conjunction with the following policies:** Equality and Diversity Policy

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**Consultation Process** LGBs

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**Policy Date:** September 2021

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**Review Date:** September 2024

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**This policy has been ratified by (please delete as appropriate):**

- LGB

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## **Introduction**

Ferndale Primary School is committed to supporting all individuals, including Young Carers, to access school life and also develop their confidence and nurture their individuality. This policy aims to ensure all Young Carers are identified and offered appropriate support and opportunities.

## **Definition**

A Young Carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone –often a parent, grandparent or sibling but it can also be another relative/friend. They may need to support someone with a disability, long-term illness, mental health condition or a substance dependency.

The caring tasks that a Young Carer can deal with ranges from:

- Nursing care -including giving medication, injections, changing dressings and assisting with mobility.
- Personal intimate care - including washing, dressing and feeding.
- Emotional care - being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening and being a shoulder to cry on.
- Domestic care - doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning and laundry.
- Childcare - taking responsibility for younger siblings.

Ferndale Primary School acknowledges that there are Young Carers among its pupils, and that being a Young Carer can make accessing school more difficult due to their responsibilities at home. A Young Carer might experience:

- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles
- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

It also needs to be recognised that there may be some Young Carers that schools within the trust are not aware of.

## The Role of Ferndale Primary School

Ferndale Primary School will:

- Acknowledge and respect the young person's caring role.
- Have a named member of staff with lead responsibility
- Ensure there are opportunities to speak to someone in private, so that they are not discussing their situation in front of their peers.
- Appreciate that Young Carers may not wish to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable.
- Work with Young Carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensure Young Carers can access all available support services in school.
- Ensure all staff have access to information and training to enable them to recognise that a child has a caring responsibility.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.swindoncarers.org.uk/young-carers-support-in-swindon/>

Swindon Carers Centre

Swindon Advice and Support Centre

Sanford House

Swindon

SN1 1HE

Tel: 01793 531133