

## **ST ANDREW'S METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL**



### **Young Carers' Policy**

Reviewed February 2026

Headteacher

Anne Barker

Chair of Governing Board

Margaret Hughes

Date of Next Review February 2028

This policy has been scrutinized to ensure it meets the requirements of the single equality duties. The school will make every reasonable adjustment to comply with the duties and actively avoid discrimination.

## **WHOLE SCHOOL COMMITMENT**

At St Andrew's Methodist Primary School, we are committed to meeting the needs of young carers so they can attend and enjoy school in the same way as other pupils and achieve their potential. This reduces the extent of harm to the young person and minimises the potential impact on that individual child's emotional and mental health and well-being. The school's Christian vision, '**Striving for excellence, together as one with God**' lays down the clear expectation that all children will be supported by the school community, displaying the vision's associated Christian values. Any pupils who may be more vulnerable, or have additional learning or personal needs, are identified and supported.

The school has a designated Young Carers' Operational Lead (Family Support Worker) with responsibility for young carers and their families and a designated Strategic Lead (Headteacher), who ensures that all procedures are in place to create a safe and supportive environment for young carers. Pupils and families are made aware of the identity of these leads, and how to contact them, through information on the website and school noticeboards. Our school has an effective in house referral system and a strong partnership with relevant external agencies, including Salford Young Carers, and will work to ensure that pupils are able to access the help that they need. Our school will only share information with professionals and agencies on a need-to-know basis to support pupils and their families.

### **AIM**

Our goal is that every child is given the support needed to enable them to meet their potential. We recognise that children who are young carers experience challenges that can impact on their capacity to engage in learning we are committed to ensuring that our school's provision effectively meets the needs of young carers.

We will do this by:

- Ensuring that the whole school understands the issues regarding young carers
- Strategic and Operational lead identified and made known to staff, children and families
- Information about young carers displayed in school and on school website
- Strategic and operational lead receive regular training where appropriate
- All staff to receive annual training and updates, delivered by the strategic and/or operational lead
- Annual school assembly raising the issue of young carers.

### **IDENTIFICATION**

The school takes a proactive approach to identifying young carers by Referring to lists of children on child protection and looked-after children plans, to identify pupils who are living with adults who are experiencing physical or mental health problems

Ask about young carers information from early years providers and school that pupils have transferred from

Delivering teaching to raise awareness and encourage self-identification

Provide a listening box, where children can write down worries or questions.

The school reduces barriers to education and learning and supports the wellbeing of young carers by

Employing a family support worker to offer support for pupils and families.

Identifying pupils who are young carers on SIMS, to ensure staff are aware when looking at attendance issues.

Raising awareness for staff who may have young carers in their classes, to ensure that any issues regarding homework and preparation for tests etc are dealt with sensitively

Liaising with relevant services to provide consistent and coordinated support

## **NEEDS**

The school understands the needs of families of young carers by

Ensuring the school is accessible and welcoming to parents with disabilities and/or illness, offering additional support to enable them to attend parents evening and other school events.

Offering additional support to remove any communication barriers with parents, including discerning the best ways to establish and maintain contact, be it through phone calls, emails, texts etc, and the times when this may be most convenient.

The school monitors and reviews policy and practice, considering the views of young carers and their families by

Implementing and reviewing individual support plans which recognise the pupil's specific needs as a young carer

Actively engaging with young carers and their families to help improve provision

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Governors**

The nominated governor for Young Carers is Margaret Hughes.

### **Strategic Lead**

The strategic lead is the Head Teacher, Anne Barker. The strategic lead provides oversight to ensure that Young Carers' needs are reflected in whole school planning. The strategic lead will ensure that the school has an inclusive environment where young carers and their families feel safe to tell staff about their caring role and accessing support. The strategic lead will ensure that there is appropriate timetabling of staff training and curriculum planning, that there are appropriate protocols in place for sharing information, and that links are made with wider school policy to ensure alignment with the school's approach to meeting the needs of young carers and their families.

### **Operational Lead**

The Operational Lead is the Family Support Worker. The Operational Lead manages the school's provision for young carers and their families on a day-to-day basis. They also advise and support school staff about how to identify and support young carers and are the contact point for external agencies.

### **Teaching Staff**

Teaching staff will be expected to be aware of the potential for young carers to be in their class and will undergo in house training to understand the needs of this group of children. If they think a child in their class is a young carer, they will refer them to the Operational or Strategic Lead.

### **Pupil participation**

Young carers often have a unique knowledge of their own needs and circumstances and their own views about what sort of help they would like to help them make the most of their education. They will be encouraged to participate in all the decision-making processes (as appropriate) and discussions about choice of schools and transition processes. We do this through conversations and mentoring of children.

### **Partnership with Parents/Carers**

The school recognises that parents/carers hold key information and have knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of a child's needs and the best ways of supporting them. All parents of young carers will be treated as partners and supported to play an active and valued role in their child's education.

### **Storing and Managing of Information**

The school endeavours to store and manage information as securely as possible. Please refer to the school's Safeguarding policy and GDPR policy, which can be found on the school website.