

**Date of Policy:** September 2024

**Review date:** September 2027

## YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Local Committee lead	Inclusion LC member
Staff Lead	AHT inclusion – SLT lead, Rachel Parker-Swann Operational Lead

*Young Carers* are children or young people under the age of 18 who provide regular and on-going care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances (The Association of Directors of Adult Services and the Association of Directors of Child Services).

At Waverley Abbey School, we believe that all young people have the right to an equal education. If a young person looks after someone, we know they may need additional support to help them get the most out of their education, and we aim to meet their needs.

Our school:

- Has a designated member of staff who has a special responsibility for young carers. Our designated contact is our Home School Link Worker – Rachel Parker-Swann. They will introduce themselves to all young carers upon arrival into the school or when identified; offering and coordinating support as and when needed.
- Is sensitive towards young carers' needs and aims to show discretion. We will respect the young carer and their family's privacy and will only share information with people who need to know, in order to help young carers and to ensure their safety. We will consult with families before sharing information. We can put young carers and their families in touch with our local Young Carers Service and other support services.
- Provides additional support for young carers and flexibility on work deadlines as appropriate and required.
- Provides both individual listening support and a support group for young carers.
- Expects young carers to attend registration and lessons on time, every school day, if able. We provide reasonable flexibility if absence is due to providing emergency care or a bereavement.
- Assists parents with disabilities and health problems in accessing parents' evenings and communicates in a way that meets their needs.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend after school activities (e.g. sports clubs) due to their caring role.
- Runs sessions and shares information at intervals throughout the year to help pupils understand issues, carer's rights and the support available, and create a 'carer friendly' culture.