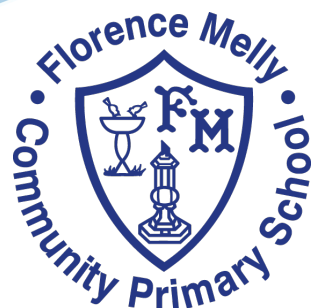


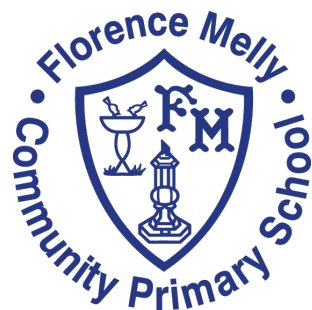


Florence Melly Community Primary School

Young Carers Policy

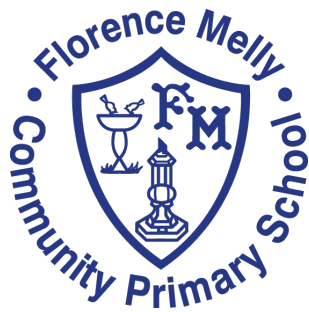
Policy Title:	Young Carers Policy		Date written:	April 2026
Written by:	Aaron Leach (Headteacher)		New or revised policy:	Revised (Version 2)
Implementation	Date of ratification:	Date presented to staff:	Date of renewal:	
	October 2026	September 2026	September 2027	





Policy Version Control

Date of Update	Overview of changes made	Version
September 2026	Reviewed in line with Young Carers in Schools guidance and local young carers provision. Clarified identification procedures, referral pathways and support arrangements.	V2



Young Carers Policy

September 2026

1. Mission Statement

At Florence Melly School, we believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances. We understand that many young people take on caring responsibilities for family members, which may include physical care, personal care, medication management, practical tasks, or emotional support. These young carers may require additional support to fully engage with their education.

This policy outlines how we aim to identify, raise awareness, and offer support to any pupil who has a caring role at home.

We work in partnership with Barnardos Action with Young Carers Liverpool to ensure young carers receive timely, coordinated support through a whole family, multi-agency approach, as recommended in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.

This policy is informed by and reflects the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014, Keeping Children Safe in Education, Working Together to Safeguard Children, and the Equality Act 2010. It also aligns with national best-practice guidance for identifying and supporting young carers in education settings.

2. Aims of the Policy

The overarching aims of this policy are to improve the progress and achievement of young carers, addressing any inequalities they may face in accessing their education. We aim to raise awareness among staff, students, and the wider school community about young carers and the challenges they face. It is our goal to ensure that young carers feel supported and included within our school community, fostering an atmosphere of respect and understanding.

The policy also seeks to provide opportunities for participation in all school activities, ensuring young carers have access to extracurricular opportunities and educational trips. We will involve young carers in decisions regarding their support within the school and provide access to appropriate career guidance, ensuring they are supported in planning for their future.

We will:

- Improve the progress, attendance, and wellbeing of young carers.
- Ensure early identification and intervention through a family help approach, consistent with the 2026 shift toward integrated early help and Section 17 support.
- Promote an inclusive, anti-discriminatory culture that recognises the disproportionate impact caring roles can have on children from marginalised groups.
- Ensure young carers can participate fully in school life, including enrichment, trips, and leadership opportunities.
- Involve young carers in shaping their support and ensure their voice is central to planning.
- Provide high-quality careers guidance and transition support.

3. Young Carers' Charter

At Florence Melly Community Primary School, young carers can expect:

- To be listened to and treated with respect.
- To have their caring role recognised and understood.
- To receive help when caring responsibilities affect their education or wellbeing.
- To be able to talk to a trusted adult.
- To have opportunities to participate fully in school life.
- To have their views considered when decisions are made about support.
- To have information treated sensitively and confidentially.

4. Definition of a Young Carer (Updated for 2026)

A young carer is a child or young person under 18 who provides practical, emotional, or supervisory care to a family member with:

- a disability
- a longterm illness
- mental health needs
- substance misuse issues
- reduced capacity due to age or vulnerability

This definition reflects the Children and Families Act 2014 and is reinforced by 2026 multi-agency guidance, which emphasises that assessments of adults must always consider the impact on children in the household.

Even though young carers are more common in older pupils, best practice recognises that EYFS children may live in caring households, affecting wellbeing and readiness to learn. Our school recognises that children in the Early Years Foundation Stage may also be affected by caring responsibilities within the household and will be supported appropriately in line with EYFS welfare requirements.

5. Our Commitment to Supporting Young Carers

The school's designated Young Carers Lead is Mrs O'Keefe (Deputy Headteacher/Inclusion Lead). She can be contacted through the school office or via email: c.okeefe@fmp.liverpool.sch.uk.

At Florence Melly School, we are committed to ensuring that young carers receive the support they need to thrive. The designated Young Carers Lead is responsible for supporting young carers and ensuring all new students are aware of how they can access help. To support this, all staff will receive regular training on identifying young carers, understanding their needs, and how to direct them to the appropriate resources.

Young carers can choose to speak directly to the Young Carers Lead, a trusted member of staff, or their class teacher if they feel they need support. Pupils will never be required to disclose caring responsibilities publicly, and all conversations will be handled sensitively and confidentially.

We will actively raise awareness of young carers through school assemblies and PSHE lessons, ensuring that both staff and students are aware of the challenges faced by young carers. A confidential peer support group will be available for young carers to meet and provide emotional support to one another, facilitated by a trusted member of staff.

Collaboration with Barnardos will be a key aspect of our approach. We will make referrals to Barnardos Action with Young Carers Project when appropriate, and Barnardos will also offer one-

on-one support for referred pupils. Additionally, we will ensure that young carers have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, providing alternatives and transport assistance when necessary.

Our school is committed to being physically accessible and offering support for parents with mobility or communication difficulties. We also respect the privacy of young carers, ensuring their personal information is only shared with those who need to know.

When young carers transition to another educational setting, we will ensure that relevant support needs and carer responsibilities are communicated to the new school, to facilitate a smooth transition.

The school is committed to working towards and maintaining the standards set out within the Young Carers in Schools Programme developed by Carers Trust and The Children's Society.

Staff Training

All staff receive regular training on:

- identifying young carers
- understanding hidden harms (e.g., coercive control, domestic abuse, mental health)
- anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice
- how to refer concerns through the family help pathway

This reflects strengthened safeguarding expectations, as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Possible Indicators of a Young Carer

Staff should be alert to potential indicators including:

- persistent lateness;
- tiredness or exhaustion;
- attendance concerns;
- difficulties completing homework;
- social isolation;
- anxiety or emotional distress;
- frequent concern about a family member;
- limited participation in extracurricular activities.

Awareness Raising

We will raise awareness through:

- assemblies and workshops
- our PSHE curriculum
- parent/carers communications
- staff briefings
- communal display areas

This encourages safe disclosure and reduces stigma. Young carers will have opportunities to contribute to the development of provision through pupil voice activities, surveys, meetings and support groups.

Confidential Support

Young carers will have access to:

- a confidential peer support group
- one to one pastoral support
- Barnardo's specialist workers
- mental health support (internal or external)

Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

We recognise that parents and carers are key partners in supporting young carers. The school will work collaboratively with families to agree appropriate support, share information sensitively, and signpost to external services where helpful. Engagement with parents will always be respectful, strengths-based and focused on the wellbeing of the child.

Identification and Registration

Where a pupil is identified as a young carer:

- Initial discussion with the child and family.
- Completion of an assessment of support needs.
- Consideration of referral to Barnardo's Action with Young Carers.
- Recorded on the Young Carers Register.
- Development of an agreed package of support.
- Regular review of support arrangements.

In line with guidance:

- School admission forms include questions about caring responsibilities.
- Staff are trained to recognise hidden or unreported caring roles.
- We maintain a Young Carers Register, shared only with relevant staff. Information about young carers will be stored securely and shared only on a need-to-know basis, in line with data protection legislation and safeguarding requirements.
- We adopt a whole-family approach, ensuring that when adults receive support, the needs of children in the household are considered.

5. Support Strategies

Support for young carers may include emotional check-ins, flexible approaches to attendance and deadlines, access to pastoral or mental health support, adjustments to school routines, and opportunities to participate fully in school life.

We employ several strategies to effectively support young carers. To identify and register young carers, we will include a section on school application forms to gather information about their caring responsibilities and whether they are registered with any services.

Regular staff training will be conducted in collaboration with Barnardos to ensure that all staff can identify young carers and provide appropriate support. We will also maintain a Young Carers Register, ensuring that relevant staff are aware of the pupils who may need additional assistance. Our Governing Body and senior leadership will be actively involved in overseeing young carer provision, with a designated Young Carers Lead ensuring that necessary resources and support are provided. The progress and attendance of young carers will be closely monitored, with interventions implemented when needed.

We will adopt flexible school policies, such as adjustments to deadlines and lateness, to accommodate the specific needs of young carers. Mental health support will be available, either

through internal services or external referrals, to ensure young carers' emotional well-being is supported.

Our school will work with Barnardos to build a comprehensive support network for young carers. We will also encourage disclosure of caring responsibilities through assemblies and PSHE lessons, ensuring that young carers feel comfortable coming forward and accessing support.

To facilitate participation in extra-curricular activities, we will address barriers such as transport or time constraints that may prevent young carers from engaging fully. We will also make arrangements to facilitate school attendance when a young carer's responsibilities at home may impact their ability to attend school regularly.

Flexible Educational Support

We will offer:

- flexible deadlines
- understanding around lateness or absence
- catchup opportunities
- homework support
- alternative arrangements for parents' evenings or meetings
- where appropriate, young carers will be supported to access telephone contact with home during periods of family crisis or significant concern

Attendance and Progress Monitoring

Attendance concerns involving young carers will be explored sensitively and within the context of the child's caring responsibilities. The school will work with families and partner agencies to address barriers to attendance before considering formal attendance interventions.

Multi-Agency Working

We will:

- refer to Barnardos where appropriate
- participate in multiagency meetings
- contribute to family help plans
- share information lawfully and proportionately, following strengthened 2026 data-sharing expectations

Participation in School Life

We will remove barriers to participation by offering:

- transport support
- alternative timings
- financial assistance where needed
- staff support during activities

Mental Health and Emotional Support

We recognise that young carers may experience; anxiety, exhaustion, isolation and/or emotional burden. Support will be offered through school pastoral systems and external services.

Sources of External Support

Young carers and families may also access support through:

- Barnardo's Action with Young Carers Liverpool
- Young Carers in Schools Programme
- Carers Trust
- Liverpool Family Help Services
- School Nursing Service
- Mental Health Support Teams

6. Safeguarding and Child Protection

In line with Working Together, we will:

- assess whether a child is undertaking inappropriate or harmful levels of care
- where a child's caring role is assessed as excessive, inappropriate, or impacting their safety, health, or development, concerns will be escalated immediately in line with the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures.
- consider the cumulative impact of multiple harms
- ensure robust multiagency assessments where concerns arise
- follow child protection procedures immediately if a young carer is at risk

Safeguarding applies to all children in all circumstances, including those in kinship care or complex family arrangements.

7. Transitions

When a young carer moves to another setting:

- we will share relevant information securely
- we will ensure continuity of support
- we will involve the young person in planning

8. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if national guidance changes. Reviews will include:

- analysis of attendance, wellbeing, and progress data
- feedback from young carers
- evaluation of multiagency impact