Young Carers Policy

Reviewed by: DHT Pastoral / Inclusion

Date of Adoption by Governing Body: October 2026

Chair of Governor's Signature: _____

Date to be Reviewed: October 2028

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The name and contact details of the Senior Leader responsible for the oversight of the Young Carer provision is:

Name: Mr. Paul Walker (Deputy Headteacher and DSL)

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The name and contact details of the school staff member responsible for maintaining a Young Carer support group and corresponding with external agencies to stay up-to-date on a Young Carer's circumstances and needs (the Designated Person for Young Carers (DPYC)) is:

Name: Mrs. Ellie Knox (DDSL)

Email: ekn@josephrowntreeschool.co.uk

1. Introduction

In recognition of the invaluable contribution that young carers make to their families and communities, The Joseph Rowntree School is committed to fostering an inclusive environment in which young carers are acknowledged, supported, and empowered to thrive both academically and personally. We recognise that young carers often juggle significant caregiving responsibilities alongside their educational commitments, which can lead to various challenges including emotional, physical, and academic stress. In our commitment to safeguarding their well-being, we will implement a comprehensive identification and pastoral support programme to ensure that all young carers within our school are recognised and supported by staff to overcome any barriers.

2. Aims

• To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for Young Carers.

• To address any underlying inequalities between Young Carers and other pupils.

• To raise awareness of Young Carers among staff, and to ensure the identification of all Young Carers as early as possible on entry to The Joseph Rowntree School.

• To ensure that Young Carers feel as included and supported within the The Joseph Rowntree School community as possible.

• To foster respect and understanding towards Young Carers among all pupils.

• To ensure that Young Carers take as full a part as possible in all The Joseph Rowntree School activities.

• To ensure that Young Carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting the Young Carer provision.

• To ensure that Young Carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities. The Joseph Rowntree School recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers.

3. Strategies

• To include space on The Joseph Rowntree School application forms for parents/carers to declare:
a) Whether or not their child is a Young Carer;
b) Whether or not their child is registered as a Young Carer.

• To maintain a Young Carer Register, accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff. We will ensure that all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff are aware of who our young carers are.

• To identify a Young Carer Lead in the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), who will be responsible for overseeing the Young Carer provision at The Joseph Rowntree School.

• To identify a member of staff to lead on the Young Carer provision, who will be responsible for maintaining a Young Carer support group and corresponding with external agencies, such as City of York Council (CYC) to stay up-to-date on a Young Carer's circumstances and needs.

• The DPYC to monitor the progress of Young Carers, and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention, where necessary.

• The DPYC to monitor the attendance of Young Carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention, where necessary.

• The SLT Young Carer Lead and the DPYC to make reasonable adjustments to usual The Joseph Rowntree School policies and show flexibility, on a case-by-case basis, regarding issues such as lateness to school, late homework and poor attendance.

• The Joseph Rowntree School will ensure that Young Carers have access to pastoral support at The Joseph Rowntree School, where necessary.

• The Joseph Rowntree School will ensure that Young Carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the The Joseph Rowntree School provision for Young Carers.

• The SLT Young Carer Lead to maintain and regularly review this Young Carer's Policy. This will be reviewed annually.

• To ensure that the designated professional for Young Carers will liaise with relevant colleagues and other relevant agencies regarding their caring responsibilities, with the consent of the Young Carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated professional.

• The Joseph Rowntree School will provide Young Carers with opportunities to receive additional pastoral support where necessary.

• The Joseph Rowntree School appreciates that Young Carers will sometimes not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable to do so. The young person's caring role will however, always be acknowledged and respected.

• The Joseph Rowntree School will ensure that Young Carers can access all available support services in School.

• The Joseph Rowntree School will follow child protection procedures regarding any Young Carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

• The Joseph Rowntree School recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers. This includes (but is not limited to):

a) negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed);
b) access to homework clubs (where these are available);
c) identifying support for Young Carers and their family to enable them to attend School trips and educational activities.

Our intention is to gain the Young Carers Award by the end of the academic year 2026/27