



**FARINGDON**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## **Faringdon Community College**

### **YOUNG CARERS POLICY**

#### **Introduction**

Faringdon Community College is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure that when a student is identified as a young carer, they are offered support to fully participate, make progress and feel safe and happy at Faringdon Community College, by alleviating some of the issues and concerns that young carers may have.

A young carer is a young person who is helping to look after someone at home. Most are caring for a parent, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one family member.

Young carers are recognised by the DofE and the school as children who are vulnerable. This is because the level of caregiving and responsibility to the person in need of care is often inappropriate for that child's age and stage of development but we understand this is sometimes unavoidable.

#### **The person they look after will have one or more of:**

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those inappropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member by assisting with:

- Physical care, such as helping someone out of bed, cooking, housework and shopping.
- Emotional support, including talking to someone who is distressed.
- Personal care, such as helping someone dress.
- Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions.
- Helping to give medicine.
- Helping someone communicate.
- Looking after brothers and sisters.

We acknowledge that there are young carers amongst our students, and that being a young carer can sometimes influence a young person's education. We strive to ensure we do all we can to meet the needs of these students.

**The school's work with young carers is underpinned by the following aims:**

- To identify young carers within Faringdon Community College from transition stage.
- To engage with students and families to support young carers to achieve educationally
- To promote a positive culture in which young people are safeguarded by the prevention of undertaking inappropriate care
- To assist students and families with the referral process
- To give young carers a safe space to interact with other young carers
- To provide enrichment opportunities for young carers such as trips and rewards

**At Faringdon Community College we understand the issues faced by young carers and their families, what to look and listen for and how to respond, by:**

- Keeping up to date with national and local developments affecting young carers and their families.
- Displaying information about young carers on staff noticeboards, around school and on the school website.
- Embedding training on young carer issues in induction training and continuous professional development for all staff including specific training about how to identify young carers affected by stigmatised conditions (such as parental mental ill health and substance misuse). The school respects the privacy of young carers and their families:
  - A young carer's privacy is respected and information about their caring role is not communicated in front of their peers.
  - The school views young carers as any other student but understands that they have the additional pressure of caring responsibilities, which may require additional support or flexible arrangements.

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