

# Sawley Junior School's Young Carers Policy, 2026-2027



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## 1. Statement of Intent

At Sawley Junior School, we recognise that some pupils may have additional responsibilities at home that can affect their wellbeing, attendance and learning. We are committed to ensuring that all children, including young carers, are supported to access education fully and feel safe, included and understood within our school community.

We aim to identify and support young carers in a positive, respectful and non-judgemental way, working closely with families and external services where appropriate.

## 2. Definition

A young carer is a child under 18 who helps to care for a family member or friend who may have:

- A physical disability or illness.
- A mental health need.
- A learning disability.
- A long-term condition.
- Difficulties linked to substance use.

Young carers may support in many ways, including:

- Practical help around the home.
- Emotional support.
- Looking after siblings.
- Helping with routines or communication.

We recognise that these responsibilities can vary and may not always be visible.

## 3. Key Principles

Sawley Junior School will:

- Ensure all children have equal access to education regardless of home circumstances.
- Treat young carers and their families with dignity, sensitivity and respect.
- Work in partnership with families, recognising strengths as well as needs.
- Maintain confidentiality and only share information when necessary and with consent.
- Avoid assumptions or judgement about family situations.

## 4. Identification of Young Carers

We understand that families may not always feel comfortable identifying as young carers. We will therefore:

- Create an environment where pupils and families feel safe to share information.
- Raise awareness through assemblies (e.g. recent whole-school assembly) and PSHE.
- Work with external organisations (e.g. Derbyshire All Age Carers Support Service, Local Authority services).
- Provide opportunities for families to confidentially inform us if their child has caring responsibilities.

## 5. Support for Young Carers

We will offer flexible, child-centred support, which may include:

- A named Young Carers Lead (Mrs Joyce) within school.
- A safe space to talk or take a break if needed.
- Flexibility around homework or deadlines where appropriate.
- Support with attendance or punctuality if circumstances require.
- Opportunities to contact home during the school day if worried.
- Access to pastoral, wellbeing and emotional support.
- Inclusion in all school activities wherever possible.

Support will always be discussed with the child and family to find what works best.

## 6. Working with Staff

- Staff will receive training to better understand the experiences of young carers.
- Staff will be made aware, where appropriate and agreed, of pupils who may need additional understanding or flexibility.
- Young carers' needs will be considered within wider safeguarding and wellbeing procedures.

## 7. Working with Families

We value strong, trusting relationships with families and:

- Approach all conversations with empathy and respect
- Recognise that asking for support can feel difficult
- Work collaboratively to find practical solutions
- Provide information about local support services where helpful

## 8. Confidentiality

Information about a pupil's caring role will be:

- Treated sensitively and stored securely.
- Shared only with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis.
- Never discussed in front of peers or without consent.

## 9. External Partnerships

Sawley Junior School will work with:

- Derbyshire All Age Carers Support Service or DAACSS (we are currently working with a named educational representative and have had staff training and a whole school assembly).
- Local Authority services.
- Health and social care professionals where appropriate.

## 10. Monitoring and Review

- The school will monitor the attendance, wellbeing and progress of identified young carers
- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects best practice