



# Young Carers Policy

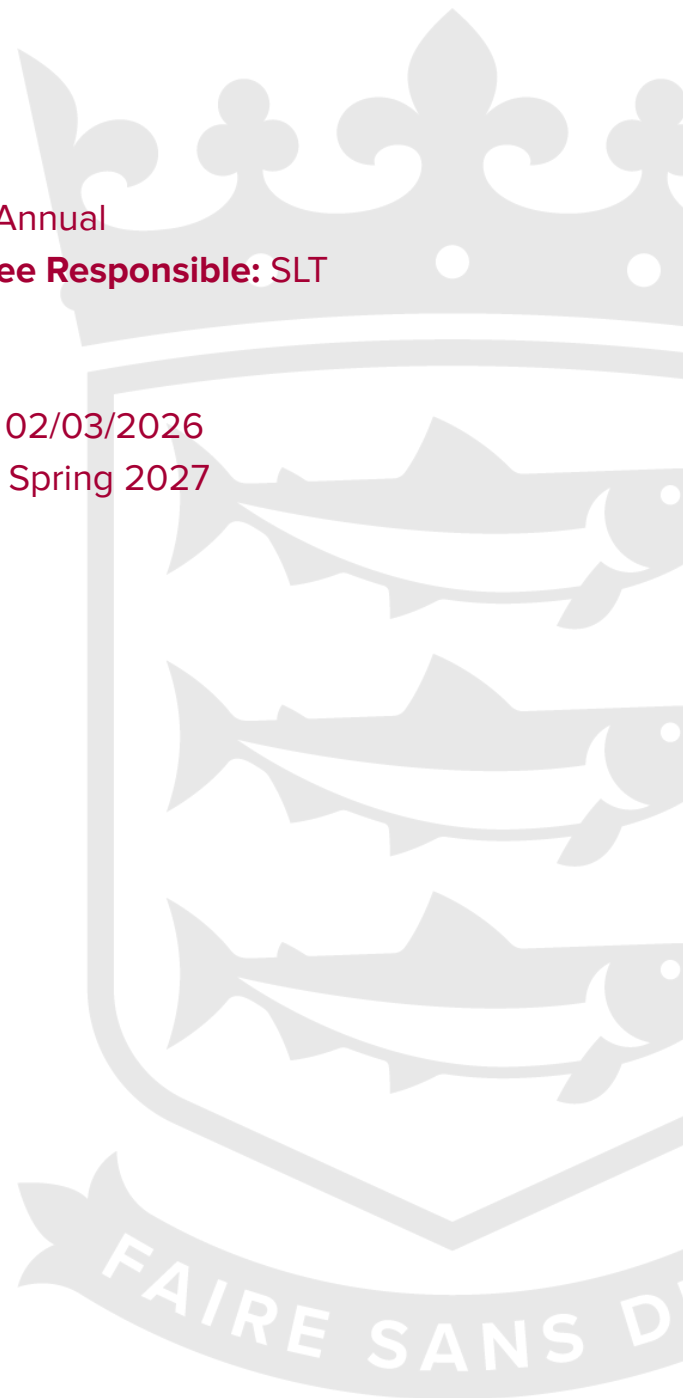
STATUS: NON-STATUTORY

**Review Cycle:** Annual

**Governors/ School Committee Responsible:** SLT

**Date of Last Review:** 02/03/2026

**Date of Next Review:** Spring 2027



## **1. Aims**

At Tiffin School we believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their situation at home. When a young person has a caring responsibility, they may need extra support to help them get the most out of school. This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home.

### **1.1 Terminology**

We define a Young Carer as a young person who has caring responsibilities for a family member with a disability, health condition or substance misuse issue. Young carers may provide physical care, personal care, help with medication or practical tasks, or provide emotional support.

### **1.2 At Tiffin we intend**

1. To address any underlying disadvantages or outcome gaps between young carers and other students
2. To address the progress and raise the achievement of young carers
3. 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 school
4. To ensure that young carers feel they belong at Tiffin School, to be included and supported within their school community
5. To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students
6. To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities
7. To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
8. To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities
9. The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

## **2. Strategies for supporting Young Carers**

1. To include space on school application forms for parents to declare:
  - a) Whether or not their child is a young carer
  - b) Whether or not their child is registered as a young carer
2. To work with the local authority and Kingston Carers to ensure that Young Carers receive the support they need to succeed at school
3. To provide all relevant school staff with training around how to identify and support young carers
4. To create a young carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff via Arbor (the school MIS)
5. To appoint a member of the Governing Body who will be responsible for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to young carers (Anna Jones)
6. To appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision (Helen O'Sullivan DHT, supported by Alice Stone Safeguarding Manager)
7. To monitor the pastoral and academic progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary, for example to monitor the attendance, progress and attainment of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
8. To make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case-by-case basis regarding issues such as lateness to school, late homework and poor attendance

9. To ensure that young carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary
10. To work with Kingston Carers Network to raise awareness of young carers and develop a culture of respect for young carers among the student community and also to encourage young carers to come forwards and make themselves known by delivering student assemblies and PSHE lessons
11. To support young carers in getting to and from the school where necessary
12. To offer a programme of careers advice and guidance and, where possible, work experience placements
13. To add the pupil to the vulnerable pupils' list and ensure they receive access to HAF (holiday and food funding) where appropriate
14. The school will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and staff will not discuss their situation in front of their peers. The school appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable
15. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected. The school will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality
16. The school will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school
17. The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
18. The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):
  - a) access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime to phone home
  - b) allow consideration/extensions with deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)
  - c) access to homework clubs (where these are available)
  - d) identifying support for them and their family to enable them to attend school trips and educational activities
  - e) access for parents with impaired mobility
  - f) alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound
  - g) advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school
  - h) Access to school for wider support i.e. food bank
19. The School acknowledges the importance of listening to Young Carers voices when it comes to providing support. Examples may include:
  - Young carers breakfast/meet up sessions where young carers can talk amongst peers with similar experiences
  - Make special note of Young Carers voices in student surveys
  - Encourage a Young Carer to contribute to the student Council
  - Include Young Carers in school decisions about how to educate other about Young Carer experiences
  - Other examples might include ideas from the map below:

### 3. Recommended strategies for staff

The school will support Young carers in finding their voice and we ask them to:	In response staff aim to:
a) take part as fully as possible in lessons and opportunities offered in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that Young Carers is a topic covered in tutor time activities at least yearly, and that it forms part of assemblies/ Communication and Culture lessons where possible.</li> <li>• Deliver staff training on the topic as regularly as is necessary to keep staff informed about procedures.</li> <li>• Make staff aware, with permission from the Young carer and their family, when circumstances are likely to interfere with lessons and/or homework.</li> <li>• Inform Careers Advisor about any Young Carers and offer them 1:1 careers advice about realistic future opportunities.</li> </ul>
b) Tell us in advance of deadlines if there are issues completing homework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow agreed-upon extensions for homework tasks where possible.</li> <li>• Support students to complete homework during the school day, have a space where YCs can come to do homework during any break or lunch time - priority seating in LRC.</li> <li>• Avoid issuing demerits if an extension can be given for homework for this reason.</li> </ul>
c) Make us aware of any changes to your caring role.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow use of lunch passes to gain early access to dining hall</li> <li>• Allow use of mobile phone in a designated area (e.g. reception, HoKS office) and/or contact home from reception if worried during the school day.</li> <li>• If necessary, meet with Young Carer (and parents/guardians) to discuss further support.</li> </ul>
d) Let us know if you need more support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tutor and Head of Year will make regular wellbeing check-ins with our YCs, providing meetings, advice/awareness, and who can be approached in person if you have a problem relating to your caring role, trips, work etc.</li> </ul>

### 4. Contact information

#### Kingston

- <https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/information-for-carers/young-carers-and-siblings>
- <https://www.kingstonyoungcarers.org.uk/>

#### Hounslow

- [https://fsd.hounslow.gov.uk/synergyweb/local\\_offer/young\\_carers.aspx#:~:text=If%20you%20think%20you%20may.if%20you%20are%20a%20carer.](https://fsd.hounslow.gov.uk/synergyweb/local_offer/young_carers.aspx#:~:text=If%20you%20think%20you%20may.if%20you%20are%20a%20carer.)
- <https://book.brentfordccst.com/health-and-specialist-support/support-for-young-carers/>
- <https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/practical-support/support-for-young-carers/>

#### Merton

- <https://www.merton.gov.uk/social-care/adult-social-care/carers/young-carers#:~:text=Carer's%20Support%20Merton%20is%20an,social%20workers%20and%20healthcare%20workers>
- [NHS - Help for young carers](#)
- [Barnardo's - Young carers](#)
- [Merton Young Carers](#)
- [Carers Trust - Young Carers in Schools](#)