



Duloch Primary School Young Carers Policy

Written by The Bubbles

Policy Statement

Duloch Primary School is committed to supporting all pupils, including those who are young carers. We recognise that young carers may face unique challenges balancing their caring responsibilities with school life. Our aim is to ensure they have equal access to education, opportunities, and emotional support.

Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is a child or young person under 18 who provides, or intends to provide, care for a family member who has:

- A physical or mental illness
- A disability
- A substance misuse issue
- A long-term health condition
- An unknown health conditions

This care may include practical tasks, emotional support, or managing household responsibilities.

Aims of the Policy

- Identify young carers as early as possible.
- Support their emotional, social, and academic needs.
- Reduce barriers to learning and participation.
- Work in partnership with families and external agencies.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Designated Young Carers Lead: Oversees implementation of the policy, staff training, and liaison with external agencies.
- Class Teachers: Monitor engagement and wellbeing; refer concerns to the Young Carers Lead.
- Support Staff: Provide pastoral care and practical assistance.
- Senior Leadership Team: Monitor attendance, ensure resources and training are available.

Identification and Support

- Early Identification: Through pupil surveys, parent communication, and staff observations.
- Confidentiality: Information will be handled sensitively and shared only on a need-to-know basis.
- Support Strategies:
 - > Duloch Young Carers group
 - > Access to quiet spaces for study or rest
 - > Emotional wellbeing check-ins
 - > Peer support groups
 - > Enhanced transition
- Referral: Where appropriate, refer to local Young Carers services (e.g., Fife Young Carers).

Communication

- Parents/Guardians: Engage in open dialogue to understand the child's needs.
- External Agencies: Collaborate with health, social care, and voluntary organizations for holistic support.

Training

All staff will receive annual training on:

- Recognizing signs of a young carer
- Understanding the impact of caring responsibilities
- Implementing support strategies

Monitoring and Review

- Policy reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team.
- Feedback from pupils, parents, and staff will inform updates.

Equality and Inclusion

This policy aligns with Duloch Primary School's commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion. No pupil will be disadvantaged due to caring responsibilities.