



# Young Carers Policy

Date: Septmeber 2026  
Review: September 2028



# Young Carers at Park Hall Academy

## Our Intent

At Park Hall Academy, we want every young carer to feel recognised, understood, supported and able to thrive.

- Ensure young carers attend, enjoy and achieve at school, reaching their full potential.
- Promote the emotional wellbeing, confidence and resilience of young carers.
- Ensure young carers have the same opportunities and experiences as every other child at Park Hall.
- Work positively with parents, carers and families, recognising individual family circumstances.
- Ensure all staff are confident in identifying young carers early and responding appropriately.
- Make sure young carers know who they can talk to, where they can find help and that they do not have to manage alone.
- Embed support for young carers within our HEART values: Honesty, Enjoyment, Achievement, Respect and Teamwork.

## Flexible Academic Support



At Park Hall, we will:

- Recognise that caring responsibilities can occasionally affect punctuality, attendance, homework, reading or readiness to learn.
- Provide appropriate flexibility with homework or home-learning expectations where caring responsibilities have had an impact.
- Ensure children are supported rather than sanctioned where a known caring responsibility has affected school life.
- Provide opportunities to catch up on missed learning where appropriate.
- Offer access to a quiet, safe space when a young carer needs time to regulate or refocus.
- Consider reasonable adjustments and individual circumstances when responding to changes in behaviour, engagement or attendance.
- Ensure young carers can access the full curriculum, clubs, trips, residentials and wider opportunities available at Park Hall.

## Identification, Awareness & Partnership



At Park Hall, we will:

- Have a named Young Carers Lead who coordinates identification, support and communication.
- Maintain a confidential register of identified young carers and regularly review individual needs.
- Ensure all staff understand what a young carer is and recognise possible indicators, including tiredness, anxiety about home, changes in attendance or punctuality, incomplete home learning or changes in behaviour.
- Create opportunities for children to self-identify safely, without feeling different or singled out.
- Gather information sensitively at admission and during a child's time at Park Hall where family circumstances change.
- Listen to children's voices and involve young carers when deciding what support would be helpful.
- Work with families, recognising parents and carers as important partners.
- Ensure information is shared appropriately and sensitively with relevant staff so that children do not have to repeatedly explain their circumstances.
- Work with external agencies when additional family support may reduce the impact of caring responsibilities.



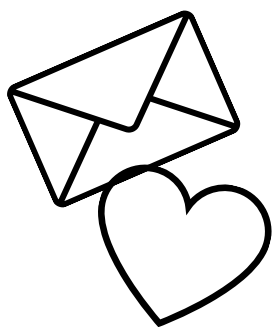
## Emotional & Practical Wellbeing

At Park Hall, we will:

- Make sure every identified young carer has a trusted adult they know they can speak to.
- Provide regular, sensitive opportunities for young carers to check in with an appropriate member of staff.
- Listen to the child's views and ensure support is based on what the individual child needs, rather than assumptions about being a young carer.
- Provide access to pastoral, nurture, mentoring or other wellbeing support where appropriate.
- Enable children to have a safe way to ask for time out or support without having to explain their family circumstances in front of others.

- Support young carers to maintain friendships, hobbies, clubs, physical activity and wider school experiences.
- Celebrate young carers' strengths and contributions while being careful not to normalise inappropriate levels of caring responsibility.
- Seek additional support or a Young Carer's Assessment when caring responsibilities may be having a significant impact on a child's wellbeing, education or development. Stoke-on-Trent City Council states that support is intended to ensure caring does not have a negative effect on a young person.

### **A Park Hall message to children**



“At Park Hall, you are never on your own.

If you help to look after someone at home, there are adults in school who will listen, understand and help. Being a young carer is something we will respect and support. You can still enjoy school, achieve your goals and take part in all the opportunities that make you part of Team Park Hall.”