



King's Academy Binfield Young Carers Policy

Approved by:	Kerri-Anne Leavy (Executive Principal)	Date:	January 2026
Maintained by:	Laura Taylor (Vice Principal)	Next review due:	January 2027



Contents

1. Purpose	2
2. Definition of Young Carer	2
3. Legislative context and relevant policies	2
4. Designated Young Carers Lead	3
5. Identification of Young Carers	3
6. Staff Training and Awareness	3
7. Support for Young Carers	3
8. Emotional Support and Peer Support	4
9. Student Voice	4
10. Attendance and Participation	4
11. External Support and Referrals	4
12. Safeguarding	4
13. Respect, Privacy, and Confidentiality	5
14. Working with Parents and Families	5
15. Monitoring and Reviewing	5



1. Purpose

King's Academy Binfield is committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to achieve their full potential, regardless of their home circumstances. This policy outlines how the school identifies, supports, and works with young carers to ensure they are safe, included, and able to engage fully in education. We recognise that young carers may face additional challenges that can impact their attendance, wellbeing, attainment, and social development. This policy ensures that appropriate support is in place so that young carers are not disadvantaged because of their caring responsibilities.

2. Definition of Young Carer

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 who provides care, assistance, or support to a family member or friend who has:

- A physical disability
- A learning disability
- A long-term illness
- A mental health condition
- Substance misuse issues

Caring responsibilities may include:

- Physical or personal care
- Emotional support
- Administering or managing medication
- Practical household tasks
- Caring for siblings

3. Legislative Context and Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- SEND Code of Practice

Related school policies include:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Attendance Policy
- SEND Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy

4. Designated Young Carers Lead

King's Academy Binfield has a Designated Young Carers Lead, who is responsible for:

- Acting as the main point of contact for young carers and their families
- Coordinating support within school
- Liaising with external agencies and services
- Raising awareness among staff and pupils

All new pupils are informed who the Young Carers Lead is and how they can access support.

5. Identification of Young Carers



King's Academy Binfield adopts a proactive approach to identifying young carers. Identification may occur through:

- Admissions and transition information
- Pupil self-referral
- Parent or carer disclosure
- Tutor and pastoral observations
- Safeguarding concerns
- Attendance, behaviour, or wellbeing indicators

Staff are encouraged to remain vigilant and to share concerns appropriately in line with safeguarding procedures.

6. Staff training and awareness

King's Academy Binfield will:

- Provide annual training for staff on identifying and supporting young carers
- Ensure staff understand the emotional, physical, and academic impact of caring responsibilities
- Share information regularly through briefings and updates

All staff have a responsibility to support young carers sensitively and appropriately.

7. Support for Young Carers

Support is tailored to the individual needs of each young carer and may include:

- Emotional support and regular check-ins
- Access to a safe and confidential space
- Flexibility with homework, deadlines, and attendance where appropriate
- Permission to contact home during social times if needed
- Support with transitions between key stages or schools

Support plans are reviewed regularly and adapted as circumstances change.

8. Emotional Support and Peer Support

King's Academy Binfield provides:

- Safe, supervised opportunities for peer support
- Small group or one-to-one sessions where appropriate
- Opportunities for young carers to share experiences and feel understood

Participation is voluntary, and confidentiality is respected at all times.

9. Student voice

Young carers are encouraged to share their views about:



- The support they receive
- Barriers they experience
- How the school can improve provision

The Young Carers Lead will use this feedback to inform support strategies and policy development.

10. Attendance and Participation

King's Academy Binfield recognises that caring responsibilities may impact attendance and participation. Where appropriate, the school will:

- Work with families to reduce barriers to attendance
- Take a flexible and understanding approach
- Provide alternative arrangements where possible
- Ensure young carers are not penalised for issues linked to their caring role

Attendance concerns will be addressed sensitively and in line with the Attendance Policy.

11. External Support and Referrals

With the consent of the young person and their family, King's Academy Binfield may:

- Refer to local Young Carers Services
- Facilitate visits from external services for 1:1 support
- Signpost families to additional sources of help

King's Academy Binfield works collaboratively with external agencies to support the wellbeing of young carers.

12. Safeguarding

King's Academy Binfield recognises that young carers may be more vulnerable to safeguarding risks.

- Any safeguarding concerns identified will be managed in line with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Concerns will be shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) as appropriate
- Support for young carers does not replace statutory safeguarding responsibilities

13. Respect, Privacy and Confidentiality

King's Academy Binfield is committed to:

- Treating young carers and their families with dignity and respect
- Avoiding assumptions or stigma
- Sharing information on a need-to-know basis only
- Ensuring young carers' circumstances are not discussed publicly or in front of peers

14. Working with Parents and Families

King's Academy Binfield will:



- Work in partnership with parents and carers
- Communicate openly and sensitively
- Support families in accessing external services where appropriate

The wellbeing of the young person remains central at all times.

15. Monitor and Review

King's Academy Binfield will:

- Monitor the progress, attendance, and wellbeing of young carers
- Review support arrangements regularly
- Evaluate the effectiveness of this policy annually

This policy will be reviewed every year or sooner if required.