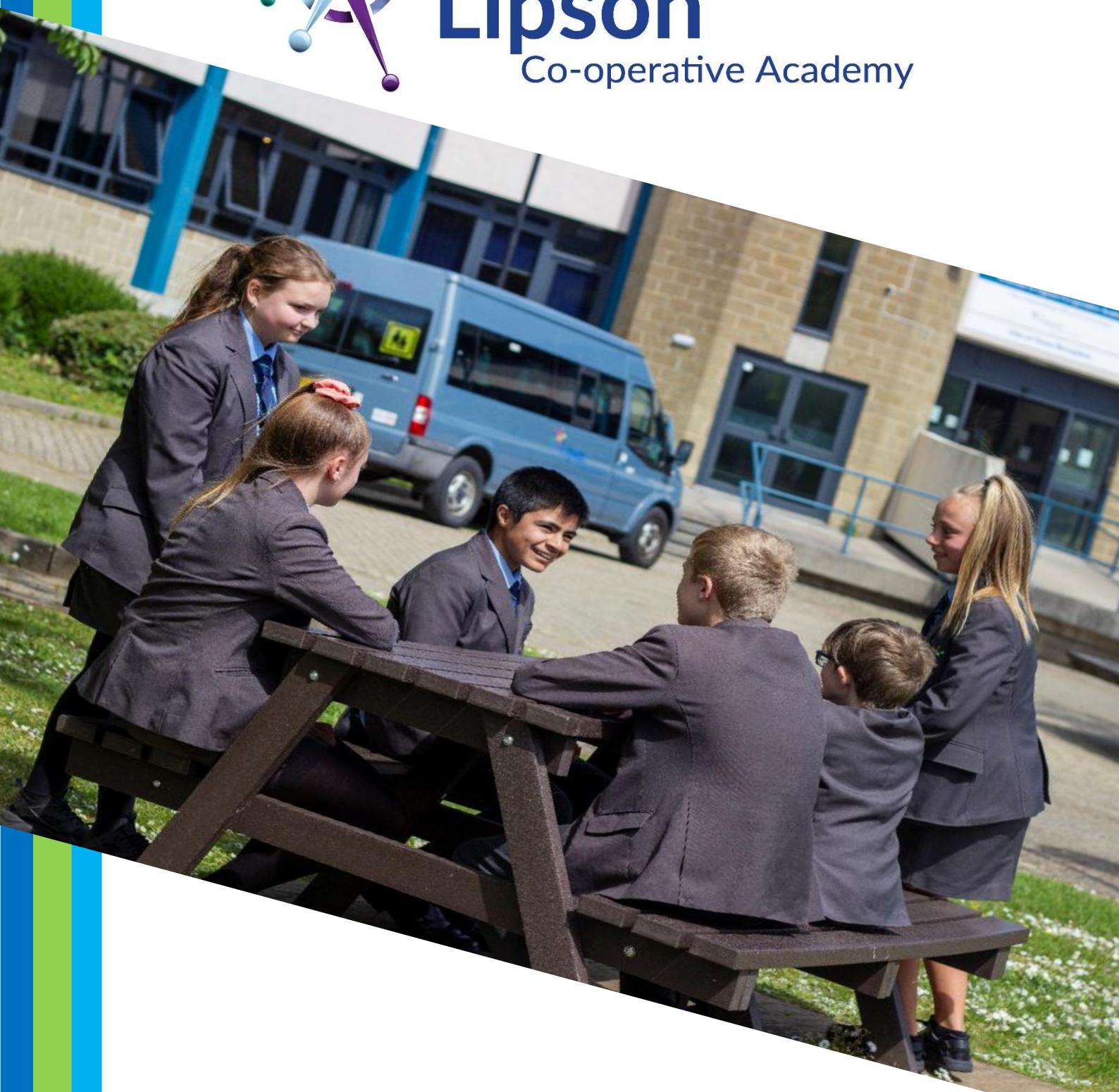




Lipson
Co-operative Academy



Young Carers Policy

2025 - 2026

I can confirm that the Headteacher of Lipson Co-operative Academy has adopted this policy as their own

Headteacher

Sign



Print Martin Brook

Date 19/01/2026

This policy will next be reviewed on 1st July 2026



At Lipson Co-Operative Academy 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. 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. This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home.

Our School:

- Has a team of staff with special responsibilities for Young Carers, and informs all new students who these staff are and what they can do to help. Our Young Carers Lead is Mr Brad Turner and he is supported by Ms Marie Price and Mr Mark Hicks.
- Will provide training and information to staff members on how to identify and signpost Young Carers to the relevant support. Training will also be provided in how subject teachers can support Young Carers in lessons and with homework.
- Will proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face as well as the support that is available (for example during form/tutor time, assemblies, PSHE sessions).
- Will regularly hold Young Carers' Voice sessions to provide a safe and confidential space for peer support groups, overseen by a member of staff, allowing young carers in the school to provide emotional support to each other regarding their caring role. These sessions will also be an opportunity for Young Carers to be kept up to date with information and to share opinions on how the school can help them further.
- Makes referrals to the Young Carers initiatives within the city, where appropriate, with the family and young person's permission and where a school referral is required e.g. Plymouth Young Carers.
- Will provide information on our support for Young Carers on our website for current and prospective pupils and parents.
- Will allow young carers access to their mobiles to contact home during breaks and lunchtimes, in keeping with the school's mobile phone policy.
- Has information about Young Carers available at prospective open days, and proactively asks about caring responsibilities during the admissions process.
- Assists Young Carers in Year 11 and Year 13 in ensuring they can balance caring responsibilities and revision, so that they are fully prepared for exams.
- Assists Young Carers in Year 13 in accessing further education, helping with applications for grants, bursaries and understanding of support available for Young Adult Carers. It is the belief of the school that caring responsibilities should not be a barrier to an ambitious future.



- Provides a safe space Monday – Thursday Break 1 in Room 15 where students can access homework support, are able to connect with one another, and/or a member of the Young Carers team.
- There is an email group which will be used to communicate information about meetings, trips, etc. and which can be used by any Young Carers or potential Young Carers to contact designated staff or ask questions relating to being a Young Carer (youngcarers@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk). There is also a designated Google Classroom where announcements and resources will be shared.
- Is physically accessible and has accessible information available to parents who have mobility or communication difficulties.
- Will not make assumptions about family members with disabilities, mental and physical health conditions or substance misuse issues, or label young people and their families.
- Respects the young person's right to privacy and only shares information on them and their family with people who need to know. Their home situation and caring role will not be discussed in front of their peers.
- Treats Young Carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality. The young person's caring role is acknowledged and respected.
- Includes Young Carers in any existing transition package so that relevant support is highlighted to the young person.

