



# **ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

## **Young Carers Policy**

<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>Nominated Lead Member of Staff</b>	<b>Nominated Committee</b>
<b>Autumn 2024</b>	<b>Assistant Headteacher</b>	<b>Welfare Committee</b>

## **YOUNG CARERS - OVERVIEW**

Young Carers are children 18 years and younger, whose life is restricted in some way because they look after someone else on a regular basis. This could be a family member or friend who has a physical or mental health condition.

The 2021 ONS census report highlighted that there could be around 120,000 young carers aged 5-18 in England, with up to 10,000 in Essex. They may be the main carer, or provide partial care. The person being cared for may have a long-term illness, a physical or sensory impairment, learning difficulties, mental illness or be affected by alcohol/substance misuse.

At St John Payne Catholic Comprehensive School, we ensure that young carers are supported throughout their time at school.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers.
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students.
- 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.
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible.
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students.
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities.
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision.
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities.
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

## **STRATEGIES**

- 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.
- To work with Young Carers to ensure that all relevant school staff receive training around how to identify and support young carers.
- To create a young carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff.

- 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.
- To appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision.
- To appoint a member of staff to lead on young carer provision who will be responsible for maintaining a young carer support group.
- To monitor the attendance and progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary.
- 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.
- To ensure that young carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary.
- To offer young carers extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection.
- To offer a programme of careers advice and guidance
- To maintain and regularly review our young carer's policy. This will be reviewed every two years.
- To ensure the designated professional for young carers will liaise with relevant colleagues and other relevant agencies regarding their caring responsibilities, with the consent of the young carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated professional.
- The school appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable.
- The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected
- The school will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

## **OUTCOMES:**

This policy will play an important part in the educational development of the individual pupils who are Young Carers.

We will ensure that these pupils are treated equally and as favourably as others and that the additional support is available to address the challenges they face. The school will use the support provided and funding to promote the achievement and progress of all Young Carer pupils. Through wise use of the support networks available, we are fully committed to ensuring that the individual needs of each young carer are met. As a result, these students will make better progress and achieve higher standards that would have been likely without it.