



All Saints Catholic College



We are His body, living and learning as one.

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

BE INSPIRED. BE EXCELLENT. SUCCEED

Title	Young Carers Policy
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Contents

1.	Aims	4
2.	Definition of a Young Carer	4
3.	Identification of a Young Carer	4
4.	Roles and responsibilities	5
5.	Support for Young Carers	5
6.	Monitoring and review	6
7.	Safeguarding and escalation	6
8.	Working with Parents and External Agencies	7
9.	Pupil Voice and Supportive Environment	7
10.	Links to Other Policies	7

1. Aims

All Saints Catholic College is committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with caring responsibilities, are able to access education in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment.

In keeping with our College motto, Quod Habeo Hoc Do ("What I Have, I Give"), we recognise the dignity and worth of every child. We are committed to supporting young carers with compassion, respect and practical assistance so that they can flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

Young carers are recognised as a potentially vulnerable group. The school is committed to identifying, supporting and safeguarding young carers so that their education, wellbeing and life opportunities are not adversely affected by their caring role.

This policy reflects the school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Where a young person's caring responsibilities place them at risk of harm, this will be treated as a safeguarding concern and managed in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

This policy is written in accordance with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Care Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010

2. Definition of a Young Carer

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 who provides care to a family member due to:

- Physical disability
- Learning disability
- Mental health needs
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse

The level of care provided is often inappropriate to their age and may impact on their emotional wellbeing, educational outcomes and development.

3. Identification of Young Carers

All staff have a responsibility to be alert to the signs that a pupil may have caring responsibilities.

Indicators may include:

- Persistent lateness or absence
- Tiredness, anxiety or withdrawn behaviour
- Decline in academic performance
- Difficulties completing homework
- Limited participation in enrichment activities
- Concern about a family member at home

3.1 Procedures for Identifying and Recording Young Carers

Where a member of staff suspects that a pupil may be a young carer, they must:

1. Record the concern on CPOMS at the earliest opportunity
2. Report the concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
3. The DSL or Young Carers Lead will:
 - Review available information
 - Speak with the pupil (where appropriate)
 - Liaise with parents/carers where appropriate
4. Where appropriate, the DSL or Young Carers Lead will carry out an assessment to determine the level of need and appropriate support.
5. Identified pupils will be recorded as young carers on the school system
6. A key worker will be assigned

All young carers are recognised as a vulnerable group within the school's safeguarding systems.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) / Young Carers Lead**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) retains overall responsibility for safeguarding young carers. The Young Carers Lead leads on the day-to-day coordination of provision.

Together, they are responsible for:

- Identification and oversight of young carers
- Ensuring appropriate support is in place
- Monitoring attendance, attainment, behaviour and wellbeing
- Liaising with external agencies
- Ensuring safeguarding procedures are followed

4.2 **Staff Responsibilities**

All staff must:

- Remain vigilant to signs that a pupil may be a young carer
- Record all concerns on CPOMS
- Support identified pupils in line with this policy
- Implement reasonable adjustments where required

5. Support for Young Carers

All Saints Catholic College provides a range of support for young carers. Support will be tailored to individual need but may include:

- Allocation of a named key worker
- Regular check-ins (including weekly meetings where appropriate)
- Access to a trusted adult at any point during the school day
- Flexibility with deadlines for homework and coursework
- Access to homework clubs and academic support

- Arrangements for work to be provided during periods of absence
- Access to a telephone during the school day to contact home
- Support with attendance and punctuality where caring impacts this
- Adjustments to behaviour expectations where appropriate
- Support to access enrichment activities and school trips
- Careers guidance and post-16 support

Where caring responsibilities impact attendance, the school will work proactively with the pupil, family and external agencies to minimise barriers to regular attendance.

The school will ensure that young carers are supported to participate fully in school life.

5.1 Procedures for Supporting Young Carers

Following identification:

1. A key worker will be assigned
2. A support plan will be developed where appropriate
3. Relevant staff will be informed on a need-to-know basis
4. Reasonable adjustments will be implemented
5. Regular review meetings will take place

The school will adopt a flexible, child-centred approach, recognising that needs may change.

6. Monitoring and Review

The school will actively monitor:

- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Academic progress
- Emotional wellbeing

The Young Carers Lead will:

- Meet regularly with pastoral staff to review provision
- Use data to identify concerns or emerging patterns
- Implement interventions where necessary

All actions and outcomes will be recorded on CPOMS.

7. Safeguarding and Escalation

Young carers may be at risk where:

- Caring responsibilities are excessive or inappropriate
- There is neglect, emotional harm or safeguarding concerns within the home

Where there is reasonable cause to suspect a pupil is suffering or at risk of harm:

- Concerns will be recorded on CPOMS
- The DSL will take appropriate action
- Safeguarding procedures will be followed

- External agencies will be involved where necessary

The school operates on the principle:

“Listen, believe and act.”

8. Working with Parents and External Agencies

Where appropriate, the school will support families in accessing a Young Carer Assessment through the Local Authority in accordance with the Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014.

The school will work in partnership with:

- Parents and carers
- Local authority services
- Young carers support organisations
- Health and social care professionals
- Tameside Young Carers Service
- Tameside Early Help
- Children's Services

Where appropriate, referrals will be made to external agencies to ensure families receive the support they need.

9. Pupil Voice and Supportive Environment

All Saints Catholic College is committed to ensuring that young carers:

- Feel safe to disclose their circumstances
- Are listened to and taken seriously
- Are treated with sensitivity and respect
- Have opportunities to contribute to support provision

The school will provide opportunities for young carers to meet, access support and feel valued.

10. Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour and Relationships Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy