

KEVICC Young Carers Policy



Introduction

This Young Carers policy outlines the responsibilities of our school in supporting young carers, defined as individuals under the age of 18 who provide regular care to family members who have a physical or mental illness, disability, or substance misuse issue.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that young carers in our school receive the support they need to achieve their full potential academically and personally. We work alongside our responsibilities as a Rights Respecting School to ensure that the rights of Young Carers are protected.

Young Carers Policy

Wider School Culture

1. The school will keep up to date with local and national developments affecting young carers and their families.
2. Information relating to Young Carers will be displayed in a prominent part of the school.
3. Information pertaining to students who are young carers is not shared with the wider student population.
4. Flexible arrangements are in place to support students as we recognise that the additional pressure of caring responsibilities can be a significant challenge.

Identification and Support

1. The school will proactively identify young carers through discussions with students, parents, and staff, as well as through self-identification by the students.
2. A designated Young Carers Lead (Penny Perkins) has been appointed to coordinate support for young carers, offer guidance to staff, and act as a point of contact for students and parents.

3. Individual Support Plans will be created for each young carer, where they are deemed necessary, in collaboration with the student, their family, the wider school community, and external support services where appropriate.

Support Mechanisms

1. Young carers will have access to a range of support mechanisms, including mentoring, counselling, study support, and pastoral care. Regular Young Carers groups and forums are held to ensure student voice is heard and signposting happens when needed.
2. The school will work closely with external agencies such as Young Carers Support Services to provide additional support and resources where needed. Regular visits from the service to school will be used to check in with Young Carers as well as review the provision on offer for our Young Carers.
3. Information about accessing young carers will be proactively shared with parents/carers and students in safeguarding newsletters/bulletins and assemblies to ensure all members of the school community understand what constitutes a young carer and the support available.

Awareness and Training

1. Regular training sessions will be provided to all staff to increase awareness of young carers' needs and challenges and develop skills to provide appropriate support.
2. Awareness campaigns and activities will be organized within the school to promote understanding and empathy towards young carers among the wider student body.
3. We are recognised by Young Carers through an award scheme for the support and provision we have in place for our Young Carers.

Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and the Young Carers Lead to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Feedback

from young carers, parents, and staff will be used to continuously improve the support provided.

By implementing this comprehensive Young Carers policy, our school aims to create a supportive and inclusive environment where young carers can thrive academically and personally.

First Presented	September 2024
Review Due	September 2025
Amendments made	