



**St Cuthbert's
Catholic High School**

Live life in all its fullness

Young Carers School Policy

2017 - 2018

Objectives of this Policy

At St Cuthbert's Catholic High School, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

We acknowledge that there are Young Carers amongst our students, and that being a Young Carer can have an adverse effect on a Young Person's education.

We have adopted this Young Carers Policy so that we will be able to relieve some of the worries which a Young Carer may have about home and their school work, and show that we believe a Young Carers education and wellbeing are important.

Who are Young Carers?

Young Carers are children and young people under the age of eighteen, whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. They carry out tasks and responsibilities, which are additional to those appropriate for their age. The person they look after may have one of the following:

- Physical disability
- Mental Health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Long term illness

A Young Carers' responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (e.g. bathing, dressing and feeding)
- Giving or prompting medication/injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Looking after younger siblings
- Budgeting and paying bills

A Young Carer can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life is often restricted with few opportunities for fun and after school activities.

Factors which may indicate that a young person is a Young Carer include:

- Illness or disability in the family
- Being late or absent (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and/or often tired
- Academic performance below potential
- Homework often uncompleted
- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- Not making use of out of school activities
- Mature and responsible but may be 'letting go' and behaving immaturely in a safe environment
- Behavioural problems
- Limited contact with school by parents
- Being bullied

If we believe that a student could be a potential young carer we will be sensitive and respectful in our approach as we appreciate they may not want their peers to know.

Before passing this information to colleagues we will obtain the consent of the Young Carer and their parents.

Support offered

As a school we have two designated members of staff with specific responsibilities for Young Carers. Mr Justin McAuley, who is the Senior School Lead and Ms Karen Tierney, who is the School Operational Lead. These are known throughout the school to all members of staff and students.

Measures in place for Young Carers

- ID card issued which can be presented when late for school due to caring role. e.g. Subject teacher
- Time out card
- Student check list
- Lap top Loan Service available
- Open door policy every break and Lunch times Thursday, Friday
- Monthly one to one meetings KTY
- Monthly group gathering
- Young Carers Forum
- Whole school approach. Students known to all staff around school including the Senior Leadership Team, Safeguarding officer Ms D Anderson, Attendance/Welfare officer Mrs W Wilson, Community Liaison Officer PC K Hannan, Medical Assistant Mrs J Barber, Heads/Assistant Heads of Year, who work closely together.
- School works closely with outside agencies including St Helens Young Carers Centre, Social Services, Priority Families, TAZ, School Nurse
- Resources given by St Helens Young Carers Centre to provide PSHE lessons throughout the school
- Free Breakfast at the Breakfast Club
- Homework clubs available every break, lunch times and after school
- Homework extensions in place
- Prior notice to be given if needed to stay after school or school trips
- Students identified and introduced to prior September start by visiting local primary schools

Updated September 2017