St Peter's Catholic High School and Sixth Form Centre

Young Carers Policy

Approved by: M&E Committee
Last reviewed on: April 2026
Next review due by: April 2028

St Peter's High School Young Carers

AIMS

- To recognise, promote and support students who are young carers
- To enable students who are young carers to maximise their achievements and remove barriers to learning
- To take the views and wishes of the child into account
- To work in collaboration with other stakeholders including parents, carers and Gloucestershire Young Carers

Definition of a Young Carer

A Young Carer is a student under 16 years of age who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem. A Young Adult Carer (YAC) is someone between the ages of 16-24 who is also covered by the same policy. At St Peter's RC High School & Sixth Form Centre, we recognise that caring can also involve physical and emotional care, or taking responsibility for someone's safety or well-being. The level of responsibility assumed by a young carer is often inappropriate to their age and at a level beyond simply helping out with jobs at home, which is a normal part of growing up; as such it may impact on the education, as well as the social and emotional wellbeing of the young person.

Roles and Responsibilities.

- The whole school is committed to meeting the needs of young carers so that they are
  enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers.
- A school lead has been assigned with responsibility for Young Carers and their families. Pupils will be made aware of the identity of the school's young carer lead and how to access support from them.
- The school uses the Pupil Premium to minimise any barriers to education and learning experienced by eligible young carers to improve their wellbeing, attainment and attendance.
- The school has an effective referral system and strong partnership in place with the local young carers service.
- The school actively seeks feedback and ideas from young carers in order to shape and improve provision for young carers.

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- The school understands the issues faced by young carers, what to observe and listen for and how to respond.
- The school keeps up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families.

Identification of Young Carers.

Unless the school is advised about a student's home circumstances, a young carer can first be identified by negative aspects of their behaviour or work in school. Some young carers worry about appearing different to their peers due to bullying or interference in their family life and may seek support to conceal their role from their peers and from teachers.

Some of the warning signs that a student is in a caring role are:

- Regular lateness, or unauthorised absence, possibly increasing periodically.
- Tiredness during the school day
- Lack of homework completed or poor quality
- Lack of concentration, anxiety or worry
- Under-achievement for potential capability
- Behavioural problems
- Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities, especially after school
- Apparent parental disinterest, delays in response, non-attendance to parents evenings/information evenings.
- Poor hygiene/physical appearance
- Being the victim of bullying

Gloucestershire Young Carers provide names of young carers at St Peter's RC High School & Sixth Form Centre, where consent has been given to share this information.

Student Passports.

St Peter's RC High School & Sixth Form Centre currently produces a Student Passport for any student with additional needs. This can include Young carers. These are produced by the Inclusion Team using a range of information from a variety of sources/contributors including parents, carers and students. They are written for classroom teachers to support their inclusive teaching and are updated as necessary. Typical sections of a passport include: description of needs, provision - including mainstream classroom interventions, what helps and doesn't help the student.

Support for Young Carers.

- During the enrolment process for new pupils, the school will identify whether pupils who are young carers.
- The school will use and evaluate data effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by young carers.
- The school, where necessary, will aim to offer support to improve attendance and the pupil's well-being.
- The right to pupil's and families' privacy will be respected and the school will only share information with professionals and agencies on a 'need to know basis' in order to support pupils and families.
- Information about the support available for young carers and how to access it will be made clearly available to both pupils and families. If we believe that a student is a young carer we will be sensitive when we approach them about this, as we appreciate they may not want their peers to know.
- Young carers and families will be referred or signposted to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate.
- The school will continue to make sure it is accessible to parents with disabilities and/ or illness, offering additional support to enable them to attend Parent / Teacher Consultations or other school events.
- The school will encourage positive approaches to support young carers. It will promote a full understanding, acceptance of and respect for issues such as caring, disability and impairment.
- Where necessary, the school will allow young carers to use a telephone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes so as to reduce any worry they may have about a family member.
- Liaise with subject teachers o make reasonable adjustments at times of need around deadlines for homework
- The school will raise the profile of young carers through assemblies, staff CPD, Young Carers Day and Weekly Drop-in sessions to provide a safe, friendly place for young carers to go with activities run weekly.

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