

Young Carers Code 2019

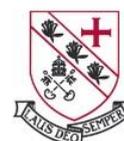
Approval

By	Review period	Method
Senior Leadership team	Bi-Annual	Meeting

Ownership: Head of Pastoral

Revision History

Review	Changes	Next review date
2014		
July 2019	Reviewed and updated	July 2021



YOUNG CARERS CODE

St Joseph's Catholic College is a welcoming environment where everyone is highly valued and where tolerance, honesty, co-operation and mutual respect for all are fostered. We are committed to the development of the whole person within a supportive, secure and creative environment. We believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances. A broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum provides equal opportunity for all students to maximise their potential regardless of age, gender, race, colour, religion, class, disability, sexual orientation or learning ability. We endeavour to promote positive relationships with parents, governors and members of the wider community.

We aim to promote equality, confront any form of discrimination and actively promote harmonious relations in all areas of life. We seek to remove any barriers to access, participation, progression, attainment and achievement. We take seriously our contribution towards community cohesion.

We acknowledge that there are likely to be Young Carers among our pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education.

We have adopted our Young Carers code so that we will be able to relieve some of the worries, which Young Carers may have about home and their College work, and show that we believe Young Carers' education is important.

Who are Young Carers?

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

- Physical disability
- Mental health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Long-term illness

The person they care for may be a parent, sibling, or grandparent and the care they give may be physical and/or emotional.

Young Carers' responsibilities may include:

- Getting up and washing
- Taking medication
- Housework
- Lifting

- Shopping
- Looking after younger siblings
- Cheering them up and keeping them company
- Helping fill in forms
- Reminding them to do things
- Making sure they are safe

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

Factors which may indicate that a young person is caring 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 College activities
- Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a safe environment
- Behavioural problems
- Limited contact with College by parents
- Being bullied
- Lower rates of attendance
- Uniform concerns
- Equipment concerns
- Quiet and withdrawn
- Lacking in confidence and Self esteem

If we believe that someone 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. Before passing this information on to relevant colleagues we will obtain the consent of the young carer.

Support Offered

The College will:

- Designate a member of staff with specific responsibilities for Young Carers. This person is the Head of Pastoral, Nicki Grace. We will make sure all pupils know who this is.
- Should the Young Carer lead leave the post a new lead will be appointed within one term
- Offers sessions on Young Carers in PSHE lessons.
- Ensures that the young person is aware of the support offered by the Parent Support Adviser, College Nurse, Counsellor and Targeted Mental Health Practitioner.
- Provide a quiet room for Young Carers to meet at lunch time.
- Involve Young carers in the development and review of the support in College.
- Give information to the young person about Young Carers and what information and support is available
- Liase with appropriate agencies i.e. Swindon Young Carers
- Curriculum support homework club
- Consider alternatives and be flexible when responding to the needs of Young Carers. This may include (but is not limited to) access to a telephone at break times, lunchtime detentions, negotiable deadlines for homework or opportunities to do homework at lunch times.

For further information you can visit:

- The Swindon Carers centres web site <http://www.swindoncarers.org.uk/>
- The Princess Royal Trust for Carers <http://www.carers.org/>



Young Carers Code Check List

Colleges should ensure that the Young Carers Code is implemented in conjunction with the following points.

- ✓ College to support Young Carers by providing a named member of staff with lead responsibility.
- ✓ Include issues around disability, mental ill health and Young Carers in PSHE and Citizenship lessons and assemblies
- ✓ Avoid stigmatisation or labelling of pupils who are carers and provide guidance on preventing bullying.
- ✓ Ensure parents and carers can access College for open evenings, etc and if this is not possible, consider how links can be made with home.
- Have an agreed confidentiality which includes statements on safeguarding
- ✓ Include thinking about sensitivities and differences around cultural needs, including refugees.
- ✓ Consider how information on pupils' pastoral needs can be effectively passed between primary and secondary College or across other phases.
- ✓ Provide specific staff training.
- ✓ Include mechanisms for effective inter-agency work to support Young Carers (including safeguarding procedures if required).
- ✓ Include mechanisms to consult with Young Carers and their parents about content of policies and delivery of support.

Include methods of regularly evaluating the effectiveness of code and support (in addition to meeting OFSTED requirements)