

Young Carers Policy

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



Approved by:	Mrs C Vile, Headteacher
Lead of Review:	Mrs J Grist, SENCO
Last reviewed on:	July 2024
Next review due by:	July 2025

Catholic Social Teaching



Dignity of the Human Person

We believe that all pupils are made in the image of God and are therefore inherently dignified. This policy we are ensuring that every pupil has the chance to achieve their full academic potential. The literacy policy also ensures that all pupils have access to the same high-quality education in every department, no matter their background or ability level.

Purpose

To support the emotional and academic needs of young carers to achieve and to aspire in their education as people regardless of complexities of needs and home.

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 living with or carrying out significant physical or emotional caring role and assuming a level of responsibility for another person, which would normally be undertaken by an adult.

Who/what was consulted in formulating the policy

This policy was devised in consultation with Cheshire Young Carers and EPCHS School Council.

Relationship to other policies

This policy is cross-referenced to the following policies: attendance behaviour, child protection, health and safety, equal opportunities and PSHCE.

Policy Details

Young Carers and the effects on their education

Being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry at school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness at school
- Lack of time for coursework or homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting

- False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger and frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

Roles and responsibilities

The SENCo, Mrs Jacqui Grist and Mrs Carly Hughes will be responsible for ensuring

- The school has identified young carers representatives who are Mrs Jacqui Grist, Mrs Carly Hughes, and Mr Colin Jones.
- All staff are made aware of who their young carers representatives are and the reporting/referral process to these people.
- Any child/young person who is identified as a young carer whilst at the school will be referred to the appropriate services (Cheshire Young Carers).
- School has a procedure for identifying young carers on enrolment
- When a young carer leaves School either to proceed into further education or for any other reasons, details of their caring role and home situation will be passed on to the next education centre where applicable, subject to consent from the young carer and his/her family.
- School will make every effort to ensure that the root cause of any lateness is made apparent and appropriate support is sourced.
- School will at all times be flexible with regards to young carers and their issues upholding confidentiality.
- School acknowledges that young carers will not be obliged to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- School will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- School will provide access to a phone during breaks and lunchtime, for young carers to call home.
- Where possible, School will be negotiable with deadlines for homework/coursework.
- School will ensure that young carers have access to a homework club.
- Where possible, School will give detentions at lunchtimes rather than after school.
- Arrangements will be made for school work to be sent home (when there is a significant need).
- School will provide access for parents with impaired mobility and alternative communication options for parents of young carers who are sensory impaired or are housebound; this will include alternative communication options for parents' evenings.
- School will always report any cases of a child/young person who may be carrying out an inappropriate caring role, which is causing immediate concern for their safety.
- School will work in partnership with Cheshire Young Carers to ensure that a high quality standard of support for young carers is achieved at all times.
- School will commit to accessing and providing training for staff about young carers and their issues.
- School will ensure that students are well informed on the roles of young carers and inform them of what support is available by delivering an assembly to all year groups.

The **Chair of Governors** is responsible for:

- ensuring the application of the policy within the school.

The governing body will receive and approve updates as appropriate.