



ST GEORGE'S ACADEMY

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

1. Rationale

This policy is to ensure that Young Carers at St George's Academy are identified and supported within the school, so that they can access the education they are entitled to.

2. Who is a Young Carer?

A Young Carer is a young person who is helping to care for someone at home. This could be a parent, sibling, grandparent or other relative. The Young Carer may care for one or more members of their family.

The relative that they look after may fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Physical disability
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance abuse

3. Support Which a Young Carer May Give

- Nursing care – giving medication, injections, helping with mobility, changing dressings
- Personal care – washing, dressing, feeding, helping with toileting requirements
- Emotional care – listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a relative through depression, monitoring state of emotions, being there to talk to
- Domestic care – washing, ironing, shopping, cleaning, cooking and paying bills
- Financial care – paying bills, sorting out benefits and budgeting the family income
- Child care – looking after younger siblings

4. Possible Effects on Education

A Young Carer may have many extra responsibilities and we realise that their education may suffer. This could be due to:

- Being late/absent from school
- Anxiety as a relative may be ill at home and they may find it hard to concentrate
- Tiredness
- Emotional issues
- Homework not completed on time
- Poor attainment
- Physical pain – back pain due to lifting
- Bullying
- Isolation – unable to have friends at home or socialise with them
- Low self esteem
- Limited social skills
- Poverty – inability to bring in cookery ingredients / non-uniform money etc.



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- Unable to attend before/after school clubs and activities
- Difficulty in engaging parents as they may feel embarrassed about their child caring for them. Also, they may be frightened that their child may be taken into social care or unable to attend meetings at school, due to their condition.

5. Support for Young Carers

St George's Academy realises that Young Carers need support so that they can have access to education, as all children should. They have set the following in place to ensure that we support any Young Carer within the school:

- The designated person for Young Carers is Miss Clark and Mrs Scuffle, SEN Department
- Miss Clark and Mrs Scuffle will liaise with colleagues, parents and other agencies on behalf of the Young Carer, with their consent
- Young Carers will be given an opportunity to speak to a member of the AYC (Action for Young Carers) team in private and not discuss their caring situation in front of peers
- There is a lunchtime drop in sessions for Young Carers to meet the AYC team and other Young Carers every Thursday lunchtime (12.40 to 1.15pm) in Leicester Street
- All available support services will be available to Young Carers
- St George's Academy will follow Child Protection Procedures regarding any Young Carer at risk of harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
- St George's Academy will promote understanding, acceptance and respect for Young Carers and their families regarding caring, illness and disability
- All relevant staff will be informed of students Young Carer status through Bromcom. A yellow 'Y' is the flag for this

St George's Academy realises that a Young carer may have difficulties within school in terms of school rules, etc. and some flexibility may be needed. Such flexibilities that may be considered are:

- Use of a mobile phone or being able to call home to an ill parent (discretely in a safe space)
- Extension times for homework
- Access to homework clubs or able to complete homework during breaks and lunchtimes
- Lunchtime detentions rather than after school detentions
- Access for parents with limited mobility (home visits if needed)
- Liaising with parents – family support or EHA referral if they need additional support
- Arrange for school work to be sent home if a carer is absent from school whilst caring for a family member
- Arriving late/early at school to attend medical appointments – shared with Attendance Officer



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Policy Developed by: Claire Crawshaw, Senior Vice Principal

Date Adopted: *January 2024*

Reviewing Committee: Student Support

Frequency of Review: 3 Years

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To be reviewed by: *January 2027*

Name *G. Amad* Signature 

Committee: *Co-chair of Garemors*