



Young Carers Support Policy

Date: 03/06/24

Policy Review Cycle: Annually

Review Assigned to: Josh Gallacher/Angela O'Boyle

Our Aim:

At Conyers, we recognise the significant role that young carers play in their families and the impact that these responsibilities can have on their education and wellbeing. Our Young Carers Support Policy is a testament to our commitment to ensuring that these students receive the understanding, respect, and support they need to thrive within our educational setting.

This policy has been developed in collaboration with the Young Carers Trust and is fully endorsed by our school Governors. It is informed by a comprehensive legal framework that includes the Children Act 2004, Education Act 2011, Equality Act 2010, Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004, Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995, Children and Families Act 2014, and Care Act 2014. These statutes guide our approach to supporting young carers in balancing their educational needs with their caring roles.

Our policy sets out clear aims and strategies to identify young carers, support their access to education, respect their privacy, and provide them with the necessary support structures. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where young carers feel valued and understood, and where their unique circumstances are factored into decision-making processes regarding their participation in education and school life.

Through this policy, we aim to raise awareness among staff and students about the challenges faced by young carers, reduce barriers to their education, and ensure that they, along with their families, are aware of and can easily access the support available to them. We believe that by supporting our young carers, we enrich our entire school community.

Understanding Young Carers' Issues: Our school is committed to understanding the unique challenges faced by young carers and their families. We keep abreast of national and local developments affecting young carers and disseminate this information through staff notice boards and the school intranet.

Respecting Privacy: We respect the privacy of young carers and their families. Information about a student's caring role is handled with utmost confidentiality and is not disclosed in front of their peers. We treat young carers as any other student, but acknowledge the additional pressures they face due to their caring responsibilities.

Access to Support: We ensure that young carers and their families are aware of available support. Information about support services is displayed on the school website and in newsletters. We are also planning to include this information in our prospectus and on a newly designed student noticeboard.

Reducing Barriers to Education: We strive to reduce barriers to education and support the wellbeing of young carers. We provide interventions such as homework support, emotional support, and weekly peer meet-ups. We maintain flexibility in our approach, allowing young carers to use these meet-ups to decompress, contact home, and communicate with staff about deadlines and homework.

Education and Training: We ensure that the whole school understands the issues faced by young carers. We invite local young carers support groups to conduct assemblies for each year group and provide lunchtime training for staff members. We aim to include more such training in the future.

Implementation Strategies:

1. Implementation Details

We have established a regular schedule for staff training sessions on young carers' issues, conducted annually by local young carers support group: Eastern Ravens. A dedicated Young Carers Coordinator (Josh Gallacher) oversees the implementation of the policy, coordinating training, monitoring support structures, and serving as a point of contact for young carers.

Additionally, we have developed a comprehensive procedural guide for staff, which includes steps for identifying and supporting young carers while maintaining confidentiality, providing academic support, and connecting students with external resources.

2. Measuring Effectiveness

Evaluation Methods

We have implemented regular feedback surveys for young carers, their families, and staff, conducted semi-annually to gather insights on the effectiveness of support measures and identify areas for improvement.

The academic performance and wellbeing of identified young carers are monitored through regular check-ins and progress reports, and these metrics are compared with school-wide data to identify any discrepancies and adjust support strategies accordingly.

An annual review of the policy's effectiveness is conducted, involving input from the Young Carers Trust, school governors, and other stakeholders, ensuring that the policy is updated and improved as needed.

3. Additional Resources

Resource List

We have created an appendix listing local and national organisations that provide support for young carers, including contact information and a brief description of the services they offer.

A comprehensive list of online resources, such as websites, forums, and helplines, is available for young carers and their families to access additional support.

Within the school, we have developed and distributed materials explaining the support available, including newsletters, noticeboards, and a dedicated section on the school website. This ensures that young carers and their families are well informed about the resources available to them.

4. Parental and Guardian Involvement

Engaging Parents and Guardians

We establish regular communication channels with parents and guardians of young carers, including newsletters, parent-teacher meetings, and dedicated information sessions about the support available for their children.

This proactive engagement ensures that parents and guardians are well-informed and actively involved in the support network for young carers, fostering a collaborative environment that benefits both the students and their families.