

Young Carers Policy

Objectives of this policy:

At Clarendon, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

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

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 can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life is often restricted with few opportunities for fun and after school 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 school/college activities
- ✿ Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a safe environment
- ✿ Behavioural problems
- ✿ Limited contact with school/college by parents
- ✿ Being bullied

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

As a school, we will:

- ✿ Give information to the young person about Young Carers and what information and support is available
- ✿ Liaise with appropriate agencies
- ✿ PSL will be the first point of contact and make themselves available for additional emotional support.
- ✿ 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/coursework or opportunities to do homework at lunch times.