



ST. KATHARINE'S C.E. (V.A.) PRIMARY  
SCHOOL



MYTIME

## Young Carers Policy

<b>Date Created</b>	November 2022
<b>Reviewed by</b>	Deputy Headteacher
<b>Date Determined by Chairs Action</b>	
<b>Next review date</b>	September 2024

## **Our Vision**

***We want everyone who is part of St Katharine's to know that they are unique and that they can flourish and make a difference in God's world, through living out the values of Grace, Integrity and Aspiration, now and in the future.***

## **Policy Statement**

At St. Katharine's, we recognise some of our pupils face additional challenges through their role as young carers. The NHS definition of a young carer is someone under 18 who helps to look after a family member with a physical or mental health condition, disability, special educational need or drug/alcohol dependency. We recognise how this may impact on their daily life and we are committed to ensuring that young carers are supported, that their skill-set is celebrated and that they are given the opportunities they deserve. Through our partnership with the charity MyTime we are working to ensure that all staff are trained to identify and support young carers.

## **Ethos**

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. Through our core values of Integrity, Grace and Aspiration, we aim to ensure that all children are happy and confident, achieving their full potential through focused, high quality teaching and high expectations as well as explicit teaching, guidance and support on mental health and wellbeing. We promote the uniqueness and wellbeing of each person through the idea of 'Head, Heart, Hands' – mental health and learning (head), spirituality and relationships (heart), physical health (hands).

## **Aims**

This document describes the school's approach to supporting young carers. This policy is intended as guidance for all parents and staff including non-teaching staff and governors.

To enable all children to:

- understand what young carers are, the challenges they face and the unique skills they hold
- show respect towards the role that young carers have
- take part in whole school assemblies/activities to raise awareness of young carers
- Celebrate all differences and values of grace, integrity, and aspirations within the school and wider community

To enable all young carers to:

- Flourish and thrive to fulfil their potential
- feel fully included in the school community, accessing the full curriculum and extra-curricular offer, including trips
- have opportunities to talk privately with member of the pastoral team
- access appropriate external support including counselling and respite

- feel connected to other young carers to help create community and reduce feelings of isolation
- be part of discussions and decision making affecting young carers
- make good academic progress/attainment
- Support young carers throughout their time at school and the transition to secondary school

To enable all parents of young carers to:

- feel informed, supported and empowered to access appropriate advice or support
- share valuable information or advice about their child or family circumstances

To enable all staff (including link wellbeing and safeguarding governors) to:

- receive training on identifying and supporting young carers
- understand the key challenges faced by young carers at home and at school
- develop a culture of respect towards young carers
- address any inequalities between young carers and other pupils
- make reasonable adjustments (for example, homework deadlines, punctuality) following advice from the pastoral team

### **Lead Members of Staff**

Whilst all staff have a responsibility to support young carers, staff with a specific, relevant remit are the pastoral team which is made up of:

- The Deputy Headteacher: the Designated Child Protection / Safeguarding Lead
- The Assistant Headteacher/SENCo/Deputy DSL
- The Family Support Worker

The pastoral team will be charged with:

### **Identification:**

- If a parent would like to discuss their child's caring responsibilities, they should contact a lead member of staff via the School Office.
- If a pupil talks to a member of staff about their caring responsibilities, the member of staff should talk to a lead member of staff about potential pathways, including referral following further discussion with parents/carers.
- A lead member of staff will facilitate the referral process either directly to BCP or through MyTime.
- The pastoral team will also provide information on young carers registration if the school identifies parent(s) or family members who have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health conditions.
- The pastoral team will work with the School Office/Early Years team to follow up on responses from the pupil registration information form where parents will be asked to declare:

- a) whether or not their child has caring responsibilities
- b) whether or not their child is registered as a young carer
- The pastoral team will hold a young carers' register.

**Additional support which includes:**

- deciding when flexibility may be needed when responding to the need of young carers (for example with regards to late arrival or submission of home learning)
- providing a quiet, safe space at school if needed by a young carer
- educating the wider school community about the challenges young carers are facing
- ensuring that young carers are protected from bullying behaviour
- establishing a young carer support group
- liaising with external agencies such as BCP council and MyTime during the referral process
- monitoring the progress of young carers and responding with appropriate interventions monitoring the attendance of young carers and supporting families where necessary
- facilitating the opportunities for young carers to access extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection, including educational visits
- following safeguarding procedures to support children at significant risk of harm
- supporting young carers and their families with transition
- maintaining and regularly reviewing this policy Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years as a minimum.

This policy should be read in conjunction with: Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

And also with DfE documents:

Promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing  
Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)