

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

YOUNG CARERS POLICY – 2021-2022



A young carer is a child under the age of 18 who regularly provides support or care for a member of their household who has a long-term illness; is disabled; has a mental health condition or a substance addiction. These children may need additional help or understanding or recognition in school.

The level of responsibility is often different to other children of their age and this can have an impact on the child's physical and emotional life as well as increased feelings of responsibility and an impact on their own time. All of this may impact on the education of a young person.

Children who are young carers may take on additional responsibilities such as (but not exclusive to):

- Practical tasks around the home
- Physical care of another person
- Personal care
- Managing finances, paperwork or medication
- Looking after younger siblings

Students are usually identified through the Carers Trust who work closely with the school during Year 6 transition and throughout the young person's education. As situations change, we may be advised about circumstances by a family member or the young person. There are also additional indicators such as:

- Regular lateness or absences
- Tiredness during the school day
- Lack of high-quality homework
- Lack of concentration
- Increased anxiety
- Underachieving
- Lack of engagement in activities, especially outside of normal school hours
- Lack of engagement from parents
- Poor physical presentation

Some young carers may be worried about seeking support from adults for a variety of reasons and so reporting signs of concern to the safeguarding team according to the Safeguarding Policy is an important requirement of all staff.

Support is offered in a variety of ways as best fits each individual case. In all cases, unless a young person is at risk, additional support is voluntary and not undertaken without conversations with the young person and their parent or carer.

Examples of support include:

- Designated members of staff with specific responsibility for young carers (Mrs Scott and Mrs Parr)
- Referring students to the Carers Trust (who run external activities; in-school monthly young carers drop-in sessions; 1:1 support sessions; expert advice and support and many more interventions as required)
- Regular contact with Carers Trust and information sharing with young carers in school

- Bespoke plans for students with identified needs
- Liaising with teachers to enable teaching staff to support and understand students' needs
- Liaise with teachers to make reasonable adjustments to homework, particularly during specific times of need
- Providing time and space to complete homework as necessary
- Sign-posting families and young carers to other external agencies if and where possible
- Enabling young carers to attend co-curricular activities by planning this into the school day
- Providing designated welfare staff for young carers to seek support from
- Communicating information between the Welfare and Heads of Year teams to ensure systems of support are understood and acted on by all staff.

If a young person, family member or member of staff is concerned about a young carer or wants further information they can contact the Safeguarding Team or Mrs Scott (AVP Student Support) or Mrs Parr (Student Support Officer), who have responsibility for young carers at Emmanuel College.