



Young Carer Policy

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Author/Owner	Young Carers' Coordinator
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Jun-25	New policy	
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This policy is based on a template produced by the Young Carers' Alliance.

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The name and contact details of the Senior Leader responsible for the oversight of the Young Carer provision is:

Name: Mrs. G. Tatman

Email: gtatman@st-martins.essex.sch.uk

The name and contact details of the school staff member responsible for maintaining a Young Carer support group and corresponding with external agencies to stay up-to-date on a Young Carer's circumstances and needs (the Designated Person for Young Carers (DPYC)) is:

Name: Mrs. G. Wilson

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1. Introduction

This is the Young Carer Policy for St. Martin's School (SMS).

SMS acknowledges that Young Carers may need extra support to ensure that they have equal access to education. Through this Policy, SMS is giving the message that the education of Young Carers is important.

2. Aims

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for Young Carers.
- To address any underlying inequalities between Young Carers and other pupils.
- To raise awareness of Young Carers among staff, and to ensure the identification of all Young Carers as early as possible on entry to SMS.
- To ensure that Young Carers feel as included and supported within the SMS community as possible.
- To foster respect and understanding towards Young Carers among all pupils.
- To ensure that Young Carers take as full a part as possible in all SMS activities.
- To ensure that Young Carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting the Young Carer provision.
- To ensure that Young Carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities.

SMS recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers.

3. Strategies

- To include space on the SMS application forms for parents/carers to declare:
 - a) Whether or not their child is a Young Carer;
 - b) Whether or not their child is registered as a Young Carer.
- To create a Young Carer Register, accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff.
- To appoint a Young Carer Lead in the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), who will be responsible for overseeing the Young Carer provision at SMS.
- To appoint a member of staff to lead on the Young Carer provision, who will be responsible for maintaining a Young Carer support group and corresponding with external agencies, such as Essex Youth Council, to stay up-to-date on a Young Carer's circumstances and needs.
- The DPYC to monitor the progress of Young Carers, and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention, where necessary.
- The DPYC to monitor the attendance of Young Carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention, where necessary.
- The SLT Young Carer Lead and the DPYC to make reasonable adjustments to usual SMS policies and show flexibility, on a case-by-case basis, regarding issues such as lateness to School, late homework and poor attendance.
- SMS to ensure that Young Carers have access to the mental health support available across SMS, where necessary.
- SMS to ensure that Young Carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the SMS provision for Young Carers.

- The SLT Young Carer Lead to maintain and regularly review this Young Carer Policy. This will be reviewed annually.
- To ensure that the designated professional for Young Carers will liaise with relevant colleagues and other relevant agencies regarding their caring responsibilities, with the consent of the Young Carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated professional.
- SMS will provide Young Carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and staff will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- SMS appreciates that Young Carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- SMS will ensure that Young Carers can access all available support services in School.
- SMS will follow child protection procedures regarding any Young Carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- SMS recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):
 - a) negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed);
 - b) access to homework clubs (where these are available);
 - c) identifying support for Young Carers and their family to enable them to attend School trips and educational activities.