

ST. DAMIAN'S RC SCIENCE COLLEGE



Young Carers Policy

Approved by Governors:	January 2023
Date to be reviewed:	Every two years [or when required]

St Damian's RC Science College

Young Carers Policy

Rationale

St Damian's RC Science College fully recognises its responsibilities for supporting Young Carers.

Due to the day-to-day contact with children, school staff, are well placed to observe the outward signs of any child who is experiencing difficulties or extra pressures at home due to caring for a parent, carer or sibling.

St Damian's seeks to do all that it can to support any child who is identified as a Young Carer. It does so in accordance with the responsibilities, regulations and procedures determined by Tameside MBC.

This policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school.

Purpose

This policy has been developed to ensure that all adults in St Damian's RC Science College are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of Young Carers.

Aims

Aims of our policy:

- To support staff in the identification of Young Carers and their understanding of the role of Young Carer
- To signpost staff to the correct personnel if they are concerned about a possible or identified Young Carer
- To ensure staff support Young Carers in managing their home life so that it doesn't impact negatively on their progress
- To direct staff to additional information and resources that could be relevant to Young Carers in the Tameside area

Young Carers at St Damian's

Young Carers are people under the age of 18, who look after someone who is unwell or disabled. Usually, the person they care for is a member of their family. As a carer they may help with:

- Doing the housework
- Doing the shopping
- Interpreting
- Keeping an eye on someone
- Washing or dressing
- Administering Medication

Who are our Young Carers at St Damian's?

There are a number of young carers at St Damian's and the list can be found on T:\ **Staff Shared Area - Pastoral – Young Carers**

How can I spot a Young Carer?

Many times, our Young Carers talk to us about their challenging home life or their role as carer but sometimes they don't, and these are some key identifying characteristics to look out for:

- Anxiety or concern over an ill or disabled relative
- A need or desire to be in regular contact with home
- Often late or missing from school
- Secretive about their home life
- Often tired, distracted, withdrawn or anxious
- Low self-esteem and self confidence
- Isolated or victims of bullying
- Poor relationship with peers
- May take on a caring role with younger children
- May demonstrate confidence when interacting with adults
- Isolation or withdrawal or behaviour that may be deemed as challenging in a school or youth group situation but is the opposite of behaviour demonstrated at home.
- Back pain or other related pain
- Outbursts or amplified response to events due to the emotional strain they may be under

Who do I speak to if I think a pupil may be a Young Carer?

- Val Harrison – Student Support Officer/ Young Carers Lead
- Faith Brophy - Assistant Headteacher/DSL

Who outside of school can help the Young Carers?

The Young Carers Project is somewhere that young Carers can go to for:

- Individual advice and support
- The opportunity to meet other Carers
- Regular trips and activities
- Newsletter
- A Young Carers Pack (help and advice on practical living worries)

There is lots of support for Young Carers available in Tameside so visit this link for further information:

<http://www.tameside.gov.uk/carers/young>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299270/Young_Carers_pathway_Interactive_FINAL.pdf