



Young Carers Policy

1. Introduction

At Kings Academy Bay House, we recognise the valuable role that young carers play within our school community. This policy outlines our commitment to supporting young carers and ensuring they receive appropriate recognition, understanding, and support during their time at our academy.

2. Definition of Young Carers

Young carers are individuals under the age of 18 who provide significant, ongoing care and support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled, or misuses substances. This care may include practical and/or emotional support and household responsibilities that are beyond what is typical for their age group.

3. Objectives

- To identify and support young carers within our student body.
- To raise awareness and understanding of young carers among staff, students, and parents.
- To provide appropriate support and resources to young carers to ensure their educational, social, and emotional needs are met.
- To promote an inclusive and supportive environment where young carers feel valued and respected.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 School Leadership

- Ensure that the needs of young carers are considered in all aspects of school policy and planning.
- Allocate resources and support services to meet the needs of young carers effectively.
- Provide training and awareness sessions for staff to recognise and support young carers.

4.2 Teaching and Support Staff

- Identify and monitor young carers, ensuring their welfare and progress are supported.
- Provide flexibility and understanding regarding attendance, punctuality, and completion of homework and coursework where appropriate.
- Liaise with external agencies and support services to coordinate additional support for young carers and their families.

4.3 Students

- Encourage a culture of empathy and support among students towards their peers who are young carers.
- Raise awareness of young carers' contributions and challenges through assemblies, PSHRE lessons, and other school events.

- Regularly gather feedback from young carers through surveys, focus groups, and one-on-one meetings. Ensure their voices are heard and considered in the development and implementation of support strategies. Create a safe and supportive environment where young carers feel comfortable sharing their experiences and suggestions.

4.4 Parents and Carers

- Encourage parents and carers to inform the school if their child is a young carer so appropriate support can be provided.
- Provide information and signposting to local and national support services for young carers and their families.

5. Support Mechanisms

- **Designated Young Carers Lead:** Dave Penfold is the designated member of staff responsible for overseeing the support of young carers, acting as a point of contact for students, parents, and external agencies. Maria Stockley, is the designated SLT and safeguarding lead for this intervention.
- **Young Carers Identification and Support Plan:** Develop and implement support plans for young carers in collaboration with the student, their family, and relevant professionals. These plans should outline specific support needs and strategies to ensure academic progress and wellbeing.
- **Young Carers Club and Activities:** Offer regular opportunities for young carers to socialise, access support, and participate in activities that promote wellbeing and resilience.
- **Training and Awareness:** Provide training and awareness sessions for staff to ensure they understand the challenges faced by young carers, so that they can provide appropriate support.

6. Confidentiality

All information regarding a pupil or student's young carer status will be handled sensitively and confidentially in accordance with data protection regulations. Information will be stored securely on our school system and only shared with a third party with the students consent and where there is a legitimate reason to so, apart from when there is a safeguarding concern.

7. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team to assess its effectiveness and relevance. Feedback from young carers, parents, staff, and external agencies will be considered to make necessary improvements.

8. Contact Information

For further information or support regarding our Young Carers Policy, please contact Dave Penfold: dpenfold@kgabayhouse.uk