

# Saffron Walden County High School



## Young Carer Policy

Date adopted:

To be confirmed by LGB January 2026

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## 1. **Statement of Intent**

**This policy is developed in accordance with the principles established in the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (Section 4.8) and aligns with the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).**

Saffron Walden County High School is committed to supporting Young Carers to access education.

The school recognises that children who are living in a home environment which requires them to act as a Young Carer for a family member or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol can increase their vulnerability and that they may need additional support and protection. Research suggests there are at least 700,000 Young Carers in the UK, but many do not realise they are a Young Carer.

We know that Young Carers may need extra support to enjoy and excel at school and at Saffron Walden County High School we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are Young Carers are identified and supported effectively.

This policy aims to ensure our Young Carers are identified and offered appropriate support to the education to which they are entitled.

## 2. **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Designated Young Carer Lead**

The Young Carer Lead is responsible for:

- Maintaining the Young Carer Register
- Coordinating support across pastoral and academic teams
- Serving as the primary point of contact for external agencies (e.g., Essex Young Carers Service)
- Ensuring annual staff training is delivered
- Ensuring annual assemblies are delivered

The Young Carer Lead is Katie Bates.

## **Role of the Senior Leadership Team and Governors**

The SLT nominated lead overseeing the implementation and effectiveness of this policy is Paul Singh, Deputy Headteacher and DSL.

The link governor responsible for ensuring the provision offered to Young Carers is of a high standard is Linda Vincent.

## **Staff Responsibility**

All staff are required to be vigilant to the signs of a hidden caring role and must report any welfare concerns or suspected Young Carer roles to the Young Carer Lead or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Annual training ensures that staff are trained to recognise signs of hidden caring roles.

## **Statutory Right to Assessment**

In line with the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Young Carers (Needs Assessments) Regulations 2015, Saffron Walden County High School explicitly recognises that any child identified as a Young Carer has a statutory right to a Young Carer's Needs Assessment by the Local Authority. The school will support and facilitate access to this assessment process upon identification and consultation with the family.

### **3. Aims**

**Identification and Awareness:** To prioritise the early and proactive identification of all Young Carers and ensure high levels of awareness, understanding, and vigilance among all staff and students.

**Equity and Achievement:** To eliminate underlying inequalities and raise the standard of achievement and progress by ensuring Young Carers have equitable access to appropriate guidance, support, and flexible opportunities.

**Inclusion and Wellbeing:** To ensure Young Carers feel fully included, valued, and supported within the school community, fostering a culture of respect and promoting their overall wellbeing.

**Informed and Flexible Provision:** To ensure that support provision is responsive and flexible by actively involving Young Carers in all discussions and decisions that affect the provision they receive.

#### 4. **Strategies**

As informed by the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (Section 4.8):

##### **Identification and Awareness**

The school will seek to identify Young Carers. In line with the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Young Carers (Needs Assessments) Regulations 2015, Saffron Walden County High School recognises that any child identified as a Young Carer has a statutory right to a Young Carer's Needs Assessment by the Local Authority. The school will support and facilitate access to this assessment process upon identification and consultation with the family.

All staff are trained annually in order to be vigilant to the welfare of Young Carers and follow the procedures outlined in this policy referring to Early Help or Social Care as required.

The Young Carer Register is shared regularly with all members of the pastoral team and updated termly to ensure staff are aware of students' current care responsibilities. This information is handled sensitively, in line with GDPR.

##### **Equity and Achievement**

Staff complete termly planning documents detailing strategies used in the classroom to support Young Carers. These strategies were developed in collaboration with Young Carers, and include:

- Discrete check-ins for homework deadlines
- Agreed-upon flexible deadlines for homework
- Sit easily for check-ins and with supportive peer
- Create early opportunities for praise
- Regular check-ins during the lesson to provide regular encouragement underpinned by high expectations
- Ensure key resources are made available digitally
- Proactive contact home to share important deadlines
- Teacher to securely store and monitor key books/equipment
- Prioritised and personally invited to all relevant revision sessions

##### **Inclusion and Wellbeing**

Young Carers are offered tutorials and one-to-one support from their Deputy Year Achievement Coordinator and the Young Carer Lead.

All Young Carers have access to a weekly Young Carer Club to meet with other Young Carers, share their experiences, and access support.

Updated December 2025

Developing an understanding of Young Carers is part of the PSHE curriculum for all students, to promote the school's culture of respect and kindness to others.

### **Informed and Flexible Provision**

All identified Young Carers are offered personalised guidance through the referral to Essex Young Carers Service, which offers support to students and families to help.

The school hosts regular Student Voice sessions with Young Carers to ensure they are involved in discussions and decisions affecting their provision.

In line with the Care Act 2014, the school will provide transition support, ensuring that Young Carers approaching the age of 18 are provided with information and guidance to ensure a smooth transition into adulthood, including access to adult carer assessments where appropriate. This includes liaison with external services and post-16 guidance staff.

### **5. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually (or following any significant DfE updates) to ensure it remains effective and responsive to the needs of our Young Carers. The review will assess:

- The attainment and attendance data of identified Young Carers
- Feedback from students via regular Student Voice mechanisms
- Feedback from staff and external agencies
- Alignment with national statutory duties (Children and Families Act 2014, Care Act 2014, Young Carers (Needs Assessments) Regulations 2015)

### **6. Contact Information**

Further information and support can be obtained from contacting the Young Carer Lead, Ms Katie Bates- [kbates@swchs.net](mailto:kbates@swchs.net)