



Saffron Walden County High School

Saffron Academy Trust

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Young Carers Statement of Intent

At Saffron Walden County High, we are aware that some of our pupils are Young Carers. Young carers are children under 18 who are caring, unpaid, for a family member or friend who is physically or mentally ill, frail, disabled or has a dependency on alcohol or drugs. They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. 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 a little extra support to enjoy and do well 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. We aim to understand the issues faced by Young Carers and we are working to raise awareness and support the particular needs that Young Carers may have and aim to provide a safe and supportive environment for those students who may have more responsibility at home than their peers.

For example:

- We have a member of staff who as the schools Young Carer Lead has a special responsibility for Young Carers.
- We work closely with Essex Young Carers Service and can put students and their families in touch with them and their support services.
- We can provide students with confidential support and advice in school.
- We respect each student's right to privacy as a Young Carer and will only share information on a need to know basis.

As Saffron Walden County High School's Young Carers' Lead I have responsibility for ensuring all young carers are able to enjoy school and make good progress. I work in conjunction with the Assistant Headteacher. If you think your child might be a Young Carer, or could be affected by any of the issues highlighted or have any further questions, please contact me by email cmccoll@swchs.net and we can arrange to speak directly. Any information that is given to us will be treated sensitively and no information will be shared without your knowledge.

