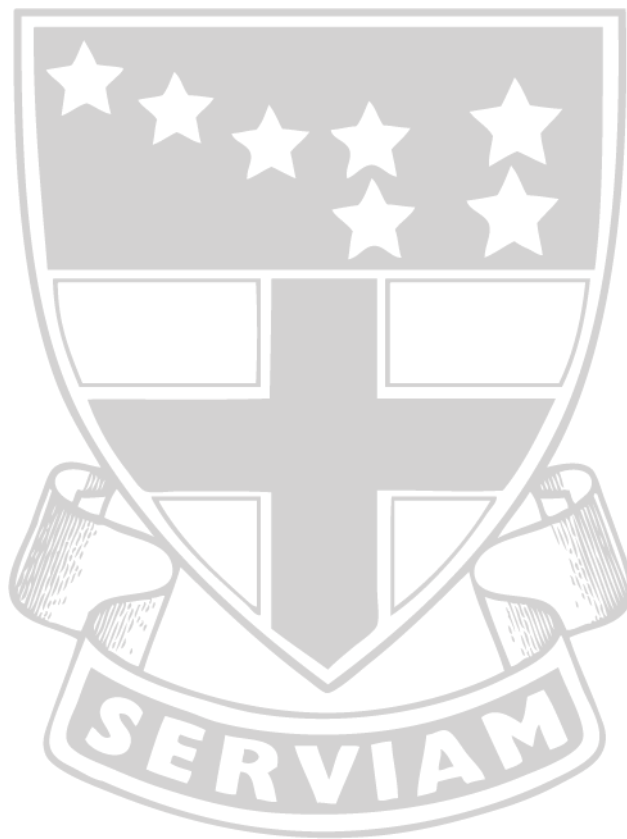


YOUNG CARERS POLICY



Date of Review: July 2024

Date of Next Review: July 2026

St Angela's Young Carers School Policy

All children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances. There are Young Carers among our students whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. These students are carrying out tasks and responsibilities which are additional to those appropriate for their age. The person they look after may have one or more of the following:

- Physical disability
- Mental health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Long-term illness
- Issues relating to financial circumstances and housing

Young Carers' responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (e.g. bathing, dressing, feeding)
- Giving or prompting medication/injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Looking after younger siblings
- Budgeting and paying bills
- Translating

Factors which may indicate that a young person is caring include:

- Illness or disability in the family
- Being late or absent (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and/or often tired
- Academic performance below potential
- Homework often uncompleted
- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- Not making use of out of school/college activities
- Limited contact with school/college by parents

Support Offered

Young Carers have a right to an assessment and the local authority has a duty to provide support. Through working with other agencies, we aim to support Young Carers in reducing their caring roles and the negative impact of their roles (if their assessments reveal they have medium - high caring roles and medium - high negative impact on the Young Carer's emotional, physical, educational and social wellbeing).

As a school, we will:

- Designate a member of staff with specific responsibilities for Young Carers. We will make sure all students know who this staff member is
- Carry out an assessment where appropriate and assess the individual student's needs
- Liaise with Family Action/Families First and other relevant external agencies to ensure the student and family have appropriate support
- Inform the Young Carer and what information and support is available
- Consider alternatives and be flexible when responding to the needs of Young Carers. This may include (but is not limited to) access to a telephone at break times, lunchtime detentions, negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework or opportunities to do homework at lunch times
- Mark 'Young Carers Day' and 'Carers Week' by raising awareness and promoting activities
- Support the Young Carer with in-school support including meetings, workshops, events all to promote well-being
- Work with students on a 1:1 basis to support their needs as appropriate