



RAINFORD
HIGH

PART OF RAINFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Young Carers Policy

Responsible: Assistant Principal Student Support

Approved by: Trustees

Approved on: 3/02/2020

Next review due by: 3/02/2021

School ethos

At Rainford, our school is:

Everyone Matters

We expect our community to be polite and respectful

Everyone Helps

We expect our community to make sensible choices

Everyone Succeeds

We expect our community to work hard

We want every student to achieve their potential and we believe that young carers need our support to do so.

Objectives of this Policy

At Rainford High, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances. We acknowledge that there are Young Carers amongst our students, and that being a Young Carer can have an adverse effect on a Young Person's education.

We have adopted this Young Carers Policy so that we will be able to relieve some of the worries, which a Young Carer may have about home and their school work, and show that we believe a Young Carers education and wellbeing are important.

Who are Young Carers?

Young Carers are children and young people under the age of eighteen, whose lives are effected by looking after someone at home. They carry out tasks and responsibilities, which are additional to those appropriate for their age.

The person they look after may have one of the following:

- Physical disability
- Mental Health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Long term illness

A Young Carers' responsibilities may include:

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

A Young Carer can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life is often restricted, with few opportunities for fun and after school activities.

Factors that may indicate that a young person is a Young Carer 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 activities
- Mature and responsible but may be 'letting go' and behaving immaturely in a safe environment
- Behavioural problems
- Limited contact with school by parents
- A victim of bullying

If we believe that a student could be a potential young carer then we will be sensitive and respectful in our approach as we appreciate they may not want their peers to know.

Before passing this information to colleagues, we will obtain the consent of the Young Carer and their parents.

Support offered

As a school, we have two designated members of staff with specific responsibilities for Young Carers. Mr Kenyon, who is the Senior School Lead for Young Carers and Mrs Sheedy, who is the School Operational Lead. These are known throughout the school to all members of staff and students.

Measures in place for Young Carers

- Exceptions passes issued for young carers who are late to school due to their caring role
- Time out passes in lessons due to their caring role
- Young carers check list on the everyone matters grid
- Tracking of youngers progress, attendance, behaviour and welfare
- Access to lunch clubs
- Support with transport home when they stay on after school clubs
- Open door policy across staff and pastoral team
- Twice half termly meetings with Mrs Sheedy
- Support through young carers, including sign posting
- Offer for every child to join the young carers monthly group meeting
- Students are known by staff across the school
- Multi-agency support approach
- Education of students and staff of young carers
- Support work closely with agencies such as St Helens Young Carers, TAZ, school nurse, families first, social services and early help
- Homework and catch-up club
- Homework extensions as appropriate
- Noticeboards up for students and staff to raise awareness and show students how to seek help and support
- Young carers are flagged up through transition
- Support provided so that young carers can attendance school trips
- Additional support provided through pupil premium to break down barriers
- Home visits and student/parent meetings
- Consideration of the rearrangement of after school detentions, where attending will impact on their caring roles