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| ST. DAVID’S CATHOLIC COLLEGE  COLEG CATHOLIG DEWI SANT |
| YOUNG CARERS POLICY |
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# **1.0: Introduction**

At St David’s Catholic College, we believe that all our learners have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (National Assembly for Wales, 2014) defines a **carer** as, ‘a person who provides or intends to provide care for an adult or disabled child’. A **young carer** is defined as being under the age of 18 years old. The care provided might include physical, emotional and personal care, household jobs, looking after siblings, or advocating on behalf of the person being cared for. This caring role can have an adverse impact on young carers.

This Young Carers Policy explains how we will identify and support any student who is a carer.

# **2.0 Nominated Carers Lead**

The college has a nominated carers lead (operational) and a carers lead (strategic):

Operational carers lead:

**Safeguarding and Welfare Manager**

Strategic carers lead:

**Assistant Principal**

The Governor link is **Canon Collins.**

Please see appendix for a job description.

# **3.0 Scope and Purpose of Policy**

Individual pastoral care of every student, including young carers is at the heart of our College. It encompasses academic progress, an appropriate curriculum, enrichment opportunities, and additional guidance and support for all personal, social and emotional needs.

Young carers face specific challenges. According to ‘Time to be Heard: A Call for Recognition and Support for Young Adult Carers’ (Alexander, C, 2014), young adult carers:

➜ Miss or cut short an average of 48 school days a year because of their caring role.

➜ Were four times more likely to drop out of college or university than students who were not young adult carers.

➜ Have higher rates of poor mental and physical health than the average young person.

➜ Rarely receive the assessments they are entitled to, with only 22% of those surveyed receiving a formal assessment of their needs by the local authority.

➜ Experience high rates of bullying – one quarter reported bullying and abuse in school because they were a carer.

In our Catholic College community, responsibility is entrusted to all members (students, parents and staff) to contribute to one another’s growth and journey towards wholeness. Pastoral care endeavours to provide to all the experience of high quality interpersonal relationships of care and support. Thus, each member is both a provider and recipient of Pastoral Care.

This policy specifically:

* Describes how young carers will be identified and supported by the college.

# **4.0 Support for young carers**

The college will:

* Identify carers through a number of methods, including admissions forms, liaison with schools, parishes, contact with parents/guardians and targeted resources/events for learners that encourage self-identification.
* Ask young carers to complete an Induction Questionnaire (and crisis plan) to understand how best to meet the young carers’ needs.
* Respect young carers’ right to privacy and will only share information with people who need to know.
* Recognise that care can be temporary, short term or long term.
* Inform staff about young carers, where agreed with the carer, so that they can be supported and monitored appropriately.
* Train staff so they understand how best to support young carers.
* Use pastoral and spiritual refection to raise awareness of the challenges faced by young carers.
* Refer to the college’s counselling support, if appropriate.
* Make connections with outside agencies.
* Put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
* Comply with the Disability Discrimination Act by offering disabled parents support to get their children into school.
* Be accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents’ evenings.
* Allow young carers to keep their mobile phones on.
* Evaluate provision for young carers to help meet their needs.
* Track and monitor the progress and outcomes of carers.

**And implement any other purposeful bespoke action which that may be appropriate to a young carer.**

# **5.0 Relevant legislation and guidance**

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles 28 and 29**

Children and young people have the right to the best available education and to opportunities to develop their personality, mental and physical ability to their fullest potential.

**The Children Act 1989**

The Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families has a section on young carers which states that effective support will require “good quality joint work between adult and children’s social services as well as co-operation from schools and health workers . . . Young carers can receive help from both local and health authorities.” See paragraphs 3.61-3.63.

**Effective Attendance Practice in Schools: An Overview**

This guidance statesthat schools should have “support systems in place for vulnerable groups which provide” among other things,signposting and access to external support for parents and pupils” and “training for staff on specific needs of pupils e.g. young carers”.

**The National Carers Strategy (1999)**

Chapter 8 of this Government strategy states that “schools need to be sensitive to the individual problems faced by young carers” and that “The Government will draw schools’ attention to effective practice in meeting the needs of pupils who are young carers, for example, through link arrangements with young carers’ services. Schools and colleges might find it helpful to have one member of staff to act as a link between young carers, the education welfare service, social services and young carers’ services.”

**Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995; Carers and Disabled Children Act 2001; Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004**

These Acts give young carers varying rights to an assessment of their needs, which must take into account their right to an education. See the SCIE practice guide to the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004: [www.scie.org.uk](https://mail.carers.org/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.scie.org.uk/), commissioned by the Department of Health.

**Supporting Young Carers in School: A step by step guide for leaders, teachers and non-teaching staff Wales edition 2017**

This document provides structure for schools in identifying and supporting Young Carers and having appropriate measures in place.

**ESTYN: Provision for Young Carers in Secondary Schools, Further Education Colleges and Pupil Referral Units Across. Wales May 2019**

**6.0 Young Carers Lead job description**

**Role Responsibilities:**

* Attend any agreed training to further knowledge of carers’ issues.
* Liaise with Carers Federation and key members of staff to work toward achieving the QSCS.
* Represent the organisation at meetings and be able to feedback to staff members.
* Disseminate relevant and up to date information to staff. Be proactive in displaying material and ensuring it is accessible to all.
* Provide advocacy to carers by feeding back to key staff members.
* Signpost and refer carers to services if appropriate to do so.
* Be prepared to undertake training to become equipped in responding to crisis appropriately, within the boundaries of your working role.
* Contribute to the development and implementation of policies and procedures that affect carers within the organisation.
* Take the initial lead in establishing a carers group, encouraging self- management and feeding back issues and ideas to appropriate staff.
* Undertake additional tasks as required on the QSCS achievement plan.
* Organise and deliver future training to raise awareness and introduce staff to appropriate policies and procedure.