



Thorpepark Academy

Young carers policy



1	Summary	Young carers policy		
2	Responsible person	Caroline Knight		
3	Accountable SLT member	Caroline Knight		
4	Applies to	<input type="checkbox"/> All staff <input type="checkbox"/> Support staff <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching staff		
5	Who has overseen development of this policy	Tracey Johnson		
6	Who has been consulted and recommended policy for approval	Governors Staff		
7	Approved by and date	Head of School September 2024		
8	Version number	4		
9	Available on	Every	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Trust website <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Academy website <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N SharePoint <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
10	Related documents (if applicable)			
11	Disseminated to	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trustees/governors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All staff <input type="checkbox"/> Support staff <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching staff		
12	Date of implementation (when shared)	September 2024		
13	Consulted with recognised trade unions	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		



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1. Introduction

At Thorpepark we believe that all children and young people have the right to learn, enjoy and achieve success regardless of what is happening at home. When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or a substance misuse problem, he or she may need a little extra support to help him or her get the most out of school. We have developed a young carer's policy to show how we will support any pupil who helps to look after someone at home and to demonstrate how we will try to relieve some of the worries which young carers may have about home and their school work.

2. Definition

A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone at home. Most are caring for a parent but some may be taking responsibility for siblings, grandparent or other relative. In some instances a young carer may care for more than one family member. The person they look after will have one or more of the following:

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

3. Caring Tasks

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young carer has to deal with can range from:

- Nursing care – e.g. giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility
- Personal intimate care – e.g. washing, dressing, feeding and helping toilet requirements.
- Emotional care – being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.



- Domestic care – doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc
- Financial care – running the household, bill paying, benefit collection etc.
- Child care – taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

Possible effect on education

Thorpepark acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, because assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands them and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

It also might be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about the child being taken into care, fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called into question). They may be unable to attend parents' evening.

Thorpepark will:

- Acknowledge that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, we are giving the message that young carers' education is important.
- The designated member of staff for young carers is Wendy Mortimer (Safeguarding and Welfare Officer), who will liaise with the family, colleagues and other professionals to support the child and the family.
- Referral for support for young carers and families can be accessed through the online portal for Early Help.
- Provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Recognise that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centered way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensure young carers can access all available support services in school, this could include weekly ELSA or completing relevant AQA units.



- Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- Promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.

Thorpepark academy recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited):

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtimes to phone home
- Access to homework and other clubs
- Arrangement for schoolwork to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis)
- Access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound.
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school.
- Consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. after school clubs, educational visits.