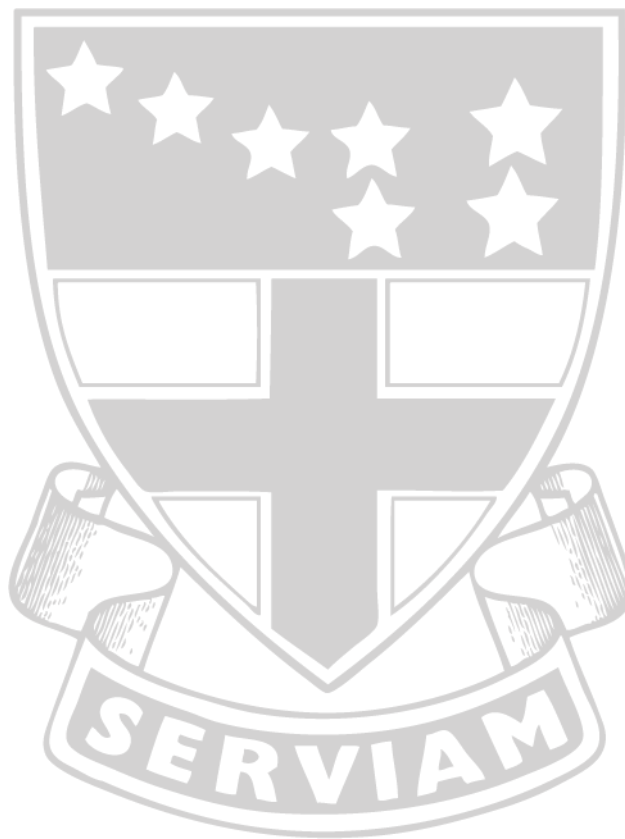




YOUNG CARERS POLICY



Date of Review: July 2026

Date of Next Review: July 2028

St Angela's Young Carers School Policy

All children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

A 'young carer' is defined in section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014 as: '...a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person'.

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

Impact

The Children's society states that the key principle is that: 'Children should not undertake inappropriate or excessive caring roles that may have an impact on their development. A young carer becomes vulnerable when their caring role risks impacting upon their emotional or physical well-being and their prospects in education and life.'

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. This will be a member of our Inclusion, pastoral and safeguarding team. 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 Children and Young People's Services /Targeted Early Help and other relevant external agencies to ensure the student and family have appropriate support.
- Inform the Young Carer and family about 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 Rise Up event and Enrichment to promote well-being and awareness of what it is to be a Young Carer.
- Work with students on a 1:1 basis to support their needs as appropriate

Further information:

The renewal Project : This project provides support to young carers aged 5-17 across the borough of Newham. We offer free and confidential advice, information, activities and support to unpaid carers living or caring for someone in Newham.

<https://www.renewalprogramme.org.uk/young-carers/>

The Children's Society : The Children's Society Young Carers Hub: Provides direct advice on understanding young carer rights, introduces individuals to peer support groups, and assists with education and employment pathways

Monitoring

This Policy is monitored by the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team of St Angela's Ursuline School. Specialist staff related to the policy area also monitor its use and suitability making recommendations for development when the need arises.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the effectiveness of this policy is undertaken by the Governing Body of St Angela's Ursuline School as set at Governing Body meetings within a framework of annual/biannual compliance checks