YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Policy Approved: September 2025
Policy Renewal: September 2027
Reviewed by the LGB Governors

"The Governors of Stanley High School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people at every opportunity and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment"

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1. Mission Statement

At Stanley High School we are aware that students in our school may well have caring roles at home. We believe that all children and young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that no child should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities. We recognise that when a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability, or substance misuse problem, they may need extra support to help them get the most out of school. We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers and to support them through a whole-school approach and through working with other professionals and agencies, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the interests of the young carer.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Designated member of staff with responsibility for young carers

The school has assigned a lead member of staff, Miss Ellis, who has special responsibility for young carers and their families and will ensure that all students are aware of this designated member of staff. The designated member of staff will ensure that the needs of young carers are addressed through a range of initiatives, for example:

- Running a young carers group within school
- Passing information on to relevant colleagues, eg Form Tutors and Heads of Year, with the agreement of the young carer
- Providing information for young carers about the advice and support which is available
- Referring or signposting young carers to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate, e.g. Sefton Young Carers
- Looking at alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out-of-school activities, eg detention, sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring roles (this will be discussed sensitively with the student and their parents / carers)

The designated member of staff will also ensure that all records regarding young carers are accurately maintained, including updating Arbor, CPOMS and the central young carers list.

3. Heads of Year

The Head of Year in charge of Year 6 transition, Miss Green or SENCO, Miss Davenport will identify whether:

- Parent or family members have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health problems
- The student helps to look after them and whether this has an impact on their education

Heads of Year may identify patterns of absence, a change in conduct or a decline in academic progress of young carers. These should be investigated as a priority and explored with the designated member of staff with responsibility for young carers.

Appropriate action should be taken, for example:

- Supporting the student in improving attendance

- Using tracking data effectively to monitor the progress made by the young carer.

Heads of Year, in conjunction with all members of staff, will identify when a young person becomes a carer during their school years. They will then liaise with Miss Ellis to provide the most appropriate support, this can include referrals to other pastoral team members or external services to support the young person.

Heads of Year, in conjunction with the Personal Development Coordinators, Miss Ellis and Mrs Rae should ensure that the Personal Development programme includes opportunities to promote a full understanding, acceptance of and respect for issues such as caring, disability and impairment. This can include running sessions and assemblies on the challenges facing young carers.

The Head of Year responsible for a young carer who is leaving the school (post-16), in conjunction with the Independent Careers Advisor, Mr Wright will support the student during the transition process, sharing agreed information with the new school / college lead for young carers and families.

4. Monitoring and Reviewing the Schools Young Carers' Policy

The school uses a range of information to monitor and review this policy. For example:

- There is regular review and monitoring of young carers and their progress in link meetings between the designated member of staff for young carers and the SLT line manager

- The academic progress and attendance of young carers is monitored

- The views of young carers are sought, for example, through the young carers' group. This feedback helps to shape provision for young carers

Stanley High School Governing Body are committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness and will abide by all relevant equality legislation.