



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Young Carers Policy

Approved by the LGB, April 2025

Due for review: LGB2, December 2025

Introduction

Queen Mary's Grammar School is committed to ensuring that Young Carers have equal access to education. A Young Carer is someone aged 18 or under who provides care for a family member who, due to illness, disability, mental health problems, or addiction, relies on or cannot cope without their support.

A Young Carer may provide support with the following:

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework, shopping
- Physical care, such as helping someone out of bed
- Emotional support, including talking to someone who is distressed
- Personal care, including helping someone to dress, wash or go to the toilet
- Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions
- Helping to administer medicine
- Helping someone to communicate
- Looking after siblings

This policy aligns with the school's mission to provide an inclusive, supportive environment for all students and contributes to "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2024."

Policy Responsibility

The Headmaster is responsible for the implementation, coordination, and review of this policy. They will work closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr. G. Collins, Assistant Head) and the Young Carers Operational Lead (Ms. Donna Hill).

Aim

To ensure that Young Carers can achieve their full potential while feeling supported and included within the school community, enabling them to 'Live life to the full.'

Objectives

- To identify and support all Young Carers as early as possible upon their entry to the school.
- To address any inequalities between Young Carers and other students.
- To ensure Young Carers feel included and have access to academic, social, and emotional support.
- To provide flexible arrangements regarding attendance, punctuality, and individual support, based on the needs of Young Carers.
- To raise awareness among staff and students about the challenges Young Carers face through training, PSHE lessons, and assemblies.

Where and to Whom the Policy Applies

The policy applies to:

- All teaching and non-teaching staff employed at the school.
- All Young Carers identified by the school or through self-disclosure by students or parents.
- Any external agencies collaborating with the school to support Young Carers.

Identification and Support for Young Carers

Identifying Young Carers:

The school will work to identify Young Carers as early as possible through:

- Application forms for Year 7 and Year 12 students.
- Self-disclosure by students or parents.

Support Available:

- Regular drop-in sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays at break time for Young Carers to meet with the Young

Carers SLT Lead or Operational Lead.

- Provision of a private space for Young Carers to call home if they are worried about someone at home.
- Issuance of a "time out" card for students feeling overwhelmed.
- Social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) support as needed.
- Assistance in applying for a Young Carer's Assessment with their Local Authority.
- Financial support for school resources, trips, and homework clubs.

Review of Support:

Support is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with input from the Young Carer and their family to ensure it remains effective and relevant.

Protocol and Procedures

Accessing Support:

Young Carers or their parents/carers can access support by:

- Contacting the key staff members (see the contact section below).
- Requesting information about local authority Young Carer services.
- Requesting a Young Carer's Assessment or advice on self-referral.

Confidentiality:

The school respects the privacy of Young Carers. Information about their caring role will not be disclosed to peers or other staff without consent.

Awareness and Training:

- The school conducts staff training through the Young Carers Aware Programme to improve understanding and support for Young Carers.
- Awareness initiatives for students include PSHE lessons and assemblies to foster respect and understanding.

Key Staff Contacts

Key staff name and role	Contact details
Donna Hill – Welfare Services Manager & Young Carers Operational Lead	d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk 01922 720696
Graham Collins – Assistant Head & Designated Safeguarding Lead	g.collins@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk 01922 720696
Local Authority	Contact details
Walsall Local Authority Young Carers	https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/early-help/early-help-children-and-young-people/young-carers 01922 650888
Sandwell Local Authority Young Carers	https://www.sandwellyc.com/ 0121 525 7667 / 0121 525 8002
Birmingham Local Authority Young Carers	https://birminghamcarershub.org.uk/young-carers/ 0333 006 9711
Dudley Local Authority Young Carers	https://carerfriendlydudley.org.uk/ 01384 818723
Staffordshire Local Authority Young Carers	https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Advice-support-and-care-for-adults/Carers/Young-carers.aspx 01785 278444
Wolverhampton Local Authority Young Carers	https://win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/kb5/wolverhampton/directory/service.page?id=qCMsRxwzf8w&localofferchannel=0 01902 553409

Note: For assistance with other Local Authorities, please contact Mrs. Hill.

Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Welfare Services Manager and Young Carers Operational Lead, Donna Hill.