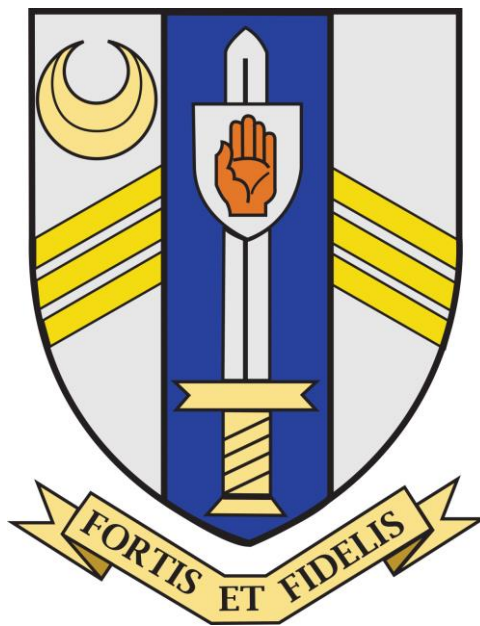


Sir John Nelthorpe School



Young Carer's Policy

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Consultations/Training	SENDCo, Area Leaders & Subject Teachers

Young Carer's Policy

At Sir John Nelthorpe School we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

We acknowledge that there are likely to be young carer's among our students, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education or wellbeing. The school is committed to supporting young carers to ensure that they achieve their full potential.

We have adopted our young carer's policy so that we will be able to relieve some of the worries, which young carers may have about home and their school work, and show that we believe young carer's education is important.

Who are Young Carers?

Young Carer's are children and young people whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. They 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:

- Disability
- Mental health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Long-term illness.

The person they care for may be a parent, sibling, or grandparent and the care they give may be physical and/or emotional.

Young carers' responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (e.g. bathing, dressing, feeding)
- Give or prompting medication/injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Looking after younger siblings
- Budgeting and paying bills.

Young carer's can feel tired, worried or isolated. Their social life is often restricted with few opportunities for fun and after school activities.

Factors which may indicate that a young person is in a caring role may 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 activities
- Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a safe environment
- Behavioural problems
- Limited contact with school by parents
- Being bullied
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting.
- Financial difficulties
- Appearance and personal hygiene
- Own health affected

Support Offered

Our School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, our school is giving the message that young carers' education is important.

The designated link member of staff/ teacher for young carers in our school is the school's SENDCO.

The SENDCO will liaise with relevant colleagues, and other relevant agencies with the consent of the young carer. All students will be made aware of the designated link.

Sir John Nelthorpe School will

- Provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone they trust or feel comfortable with in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Appreciate that young carers may not wish to discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable
- Treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensure young carers can access all available support services in school
- 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 understanding, acceptance of and respect for the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring
- Work with the Young Carers support service to ensure our young carers have access to the support and opportunities on offer.

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

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to phone home via main offices on both sites
- Lunchtime detentions rather than after school detentions (where possible)
- Negotiable deadlines for homework / coursework (when needed)
- Access to homework support
- Arrangements will be made for schoolwork to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis)
- Any approved absence will be time limited
- Access for parents with impaired mobility for meetings or other school events
- 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.