

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH SCHOOL

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Date of policy: January 2017

Date of review: January 2019

This policy has been developed to recognise, promote and support students, who in whatever manner, offer care and support to their family members. It is acknowledged that some young carers will experience difficulties in relation to attendance, attainment and may experience difficulties accessing further education and employment. The policy aims to highlight the identification of young carers and the support available within school and how they can be referred to outside agencies.

Definition

A Young Carer has been defined as a child under the age of 16 who regularly gives physical, emotional or financial support to another family member.

A Young Adult Carer is someone who is between the ages of 16-24 who regularly gives physical, emotional and financial support to a friend, relative or partner.

Policy Statement

Thomas Gainsborough School recognises that there are a number of students across all year groups who are performing a caring role within their families. This policy supports all students who have been identified as Young Carers or Young Adult Carers.

The purpose of the policy

- To identify all those who are performing a Young Carer role
- To inform staff, where appropriate to the individual support in place for a Young Carer
- To ensure that appropriate recognition and support is offered within school by all staff
- To ensure that the appropriate referrals are made in compliance with legislation, codes of practise and school policy.

We aim to:

- Identify all students who are caring for others
- Review each individual student's needs within the school
- Keep staff informed of relevant information relating to student's needs
- Ensure that student's thoughts and feelings are consideration when making decisions about how to support them.
- To support referrals to agencies working with Young Carers, such as Suffolk Young Carers
- Ensure all safeguarding procedures are followed in accordance with the school policy
- Provide a member of staff who will act as a young carer lead

Responsibility of the school

The school will:

- Appoint a Young Carer Lead who will coordinate and manage the scheme within school

- Ensure that communication is maintained with all staff through the Young Carer Lead
- Ensure the promotion of the policy throughout the organisation
- Provide personalised support for all Young Carers that want it
- Provide staff training where required to support Young Carers
- Liaise with parents and carers where possible to enable effective communication

The Young Carer Lead will:

- Develop appropriate methods to identify Young Carers in school
- Launch and maintain a registration scheme within the school
- Meet with Suffolk Young Carers regularly
- Liaise with the Learning Mentors regularly to discuss support and any concerns

Key Indicators of successful intervention

- Students will be involved in deciding on the level of support they receive
- Attendance and punctuality of students will improve over time
- Attainment over time will improve
- Young Carers will feel safe and supported in school
- The school will gain accreditation from Suffolk Young Carers through their awards system and maintain this.