



SIR ROBERT PATTINSON ACADEMY

YOUNG CARERS' POLICY

Date Reviewed in the Academy: December 2023

Approved by Trustees: 5 February 2024

Date for Review: February 2027

Intent Statement

At Sir Robert Pattinson Academy, we believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their situation at home. When a young person has a caring responsibility, they may need extra support to help them get the most out of their education. This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home.

AIMS

- To raise attendance rates amongst Young Carers
- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers
- To respond to any underlying inequalities between young carers and other pupils
- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the Academy
- To ensure that young carers feel included within our Academy community
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all pupils
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all Academy activities
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities
- The Academy recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

STRATEGIES

- To create a young carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team, support and teaching staff
- To appoint a member of the Board of Trustees who will have oversight for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to young carers
- To appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision
- To monitor the progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- To monitor the attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- To make reasonable adjustments to usual academy policies and show flexibility on a case-by-case basis regarding issues such as lateness, late

homework etc...

- To ensure that young carers have access to mental health support available across the Academy where necessary
- To ensure that young carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the Academy provision for young carers
- To maintain and regularly review our young carers' policy. This will be reviewed annually
- To add the pupil to the vulnerable pupils' list and ensure, if eligible, process their HAF (holiday and food funding) is efficiently processed where appropriate
- The Academy will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in confidence and staff will not discuss their situation in front of their peers
- The Academy appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected
- The Academy will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality where legally able
- The Academy will ensure young carers can access all available support services in the Academy
- The Academy will provide information on our support for young carers on our website for current and prospective pupils and parents/carers.
- The Academy will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
- The Academy will proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face as well as the support that is available for example, during R2L, assemblies, PHSE lessons
- The Academy recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision may include, but is not limited to:
 - a) access to a telephone during breaks to phone home
 - b) flexible deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed and/or appropriate)
 - c) access to homework clubs (where these are available)
 - d) identifying support for them and their family to enable them to attend school trips and educational activities
 - e) access for parents with impaired mobility by using our meeting rooms on the ground floor
 - f) alternative communication options for parents who are housebound
 - g) advice to parent/carers if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to the Academy