



# Archbishop Beck Catholic College

## Young Carers Policy

Reviewed and Approved: February 2018

Renewal Date of Policy: February 2021

“The Governors of Archbishop Beck Catholic College 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”

## **1. MISSION STATEMENT**

At Archbishop Beck Catholic College we are aware that students in our college 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, physical or emotional disability, or struggles with substance misuse, they may need extra support to help them get the most out of college. We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers and to support them through a whole-college approach and through working with other professionals and agencies, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the young carer.

## **2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Designated member of staff with responsibility for young carers**

The college has assigned a designated member of staff, Mrs Margarita Haddock, Social Inclusion Manager, to have lead 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:

- Developing a young carers group within college
- Communicating information to relevant colleagues, eg Form Tutors, Progress Managers, support staff, 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, eg Barnardo's Young Carers
- Looking at alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out-of-college 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 SIMS.

### **Transition Team**

The team who co-ordinate Year 6 transition 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
- Have parental consent to access support from Barnardo's Young Carers via a completed EHAT

## **Progress Managers**

Progress Managers 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.

Progress Managers, in conjunction with all members of staff, will identify when a young person becomes a carer during their college years. They will then liaise with the designated member of staff with responsibility for young carers to provide the most appropriate support.

Progress Managers, in conjunction with the designated member of staff for young carers and the pastoral team, may involve external agencies as appropriate to respond to the needs of the young carer.

Progress Managers, in conjunction with the PSHE Co-ordinator should ensure that the Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme includes opportunities to promote a full understanding, acceptance of and respect for issues such as caring, disability and impairment. This can include running a session in PSHE on the challenges faced by young carers.

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

## **3. MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE COLLEGE'S YOUNG CARERS' POLICY**

The college 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

Archbishop Beck Catholic College Governing Body are committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness, and will abide by all relevant equality legislation.