



**MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE
YOUNG CARERS POLICY**



Date Reviewed: May 2024
Date of Next Review: May 2026
Reviewer: Head of School (Niki Smith)
Date of ratification by Governing Board: 19th June 2024

Document Control		
Edition	Issued	Changes from previous
2	May 2024	New policy 2 years to be reviewed May 2026

“Young carers are children and young people under 18 years old who provide unpaid care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances’ (Carers Trust 2014)

‘Young Adult Carers are young people aged 14-25 who care, unpaid, for a friend or family member who could not cope without their support’ (Carers Trust, 2014)

At Melbourn Village College we are aware that some of our students may be caring for a family member at home and may require support to help them attend and enjoy school in the same way as other students in order to achieve their potential.

We have the following practices and strategies in place to support Young Carers in our school:

- There is a designated Young Carers School Lead with responsibility for young carers and their families. Anyone wishing to contact this person should, in the first instance, contact the relevant Pastoral Support Officer (PSO).
- Melbourn Village College has adopted a whole school approach to supporting young carers and their families, and information will only be shared with professionals and agencies on a ‘need to know’ basis in order to support young carers and their families.
- Partnership working with local young carers services has been developed to embed ongoing training on young carers for our staff and Governors.
- Information and signposting is available for students via their PSO.
- Staff and families can access information regarding the identification of young carers and how to self-identify through communications home and the school website.
- Identification of young carers during the enrolment process is in place to actively monitor attendance and attainment, and appropriate action will be taken to support young carers and their families where attendance and attainment drops below the expected level.
- Support for young carers and their family during the transition process is available to share agreed information with their new school/ college about their caring role.
- Melbourn Village College will look to consider alternative arrangements if a young carer cannot attend after-school activities. The school will also consider lunchtime detentions rather than after-school detentions.
- The school will allow young carers to use a phone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes to reduce the worry that they may have about a family member.

