



The Hinckley SCHOOL

Young Carers Policy 2023-24

Date of Last Review:	September 2023
Reviewed by:	Klaire Wright, Director of Student Welfare and DSL
Frequency of Review:	Annually
Date of Next Review:	September 2024

The definition of a young carer as defined in section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014 is “a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person (of any age, except where that care is provided for payment, pursuant to a contract or as voluntary work). This relates to care for any family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances”.

Definition of Caring - Caring responsibilities are defined not just in terms of practical support, such as carrying out practical tasks, for instance, shopping, cooking, cleaning etc. but also in terms of emotional support and the emotional impact on young people of care needs within a family. Young carers may be primary carers i.e. caring for a parent or carer, or a secondary carer ie. Helping to care for a sibling or older relative.

Young Carers are a vulnerable and disadvantaged group who often experience difficulties in their education. They can struggle to attend school and to make good progress. They may experience punctuality issues, concentration problems, emotional outbursts, tiredness, behavioural problems, anxiety, stress, problems with health and wellbeing, isolation, low self-esteem and low mood. They may also struggle to build relationships and may have few friendships.

Identifying and supporting young carers is an effective way of improving the attainment and attendance of this group, who are specifically mentioned in Ofsted's evaluation inspection schedule. (Evaluation of new inspection framework for children's services and LSCB reviews June 2014)

We believe that by supporting young carers and their families, we can strengthen families and support parenting.

Policy Statement

Here at The Hinckley School we are aware that our students may have caring roles at home. We believe that young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is happening at home and that **no** young person should have to take on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities. We recognise that a young carer may need a little extra support, to help them get the most out of school.

We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers and to have a separate policy for young carers, stating how we will support them. We aim to support young carers through a whole school approach and by working with other agencies and professionals, with the understanding that support for the whole family is in the best interests of the young carer. We will continue to keep up to date with both local and national developments, legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families.

Aim of the policy

- The aim of this policy document is to raise the awareness among the School staff about the needs of young carers and to support them in establishing a whole School approach to address the issues that may arise within a school setting.
- The policy will hopefully provide teachers with a range of referral routes, also enabling them to provide young carers with information and advice on where to seek assistance.

The Hinckley School wishes to develop:

- A supportive environment for young carers by establishing a whole approach to the identification of need and the establishment of an appropriate referral mechanism and network to meet the individual support needs of young people with caring responsibilities.
- Identify named members of staff: Naomi Murrell and Sharon Gray as Young Carers Champions, with responsibility for ensuring that carers are identified and their needs met.
- Ensuring that school records identify the support needs of individual young carers and that these support needs are reflected in records accompanying children and young people within any transition to other educational providers while ensuring that the appropriate confidentiality procedures are in place to cover the necessary information sharing.
- Training for staff to include training on the possible identification of young carers, issues impacting on education and support/referral mechanisms available via external agencies
- Promotion of additional links with adult care agencies, who may be able to support families and relieve care responsibilities of young people.
- Offering privacy to young people when investigating frequent lateness or nonattendance at school.
- Offering young carers the facility to stay in contact with the person they are caring for during school hours by means of the most appropriate communication methods.
- Allowing appropriate leeway and extensions to young carers for completion of homework or coursework.
- Allowing appropriate leeway with regards to punctuality and attendance at school to accommodate unavoidable caring responsibilities.
- Providing a trusted adult within the school setting with whom the young carer feels comfortable in addressing difficult issues arising from their situation. This may not be the same person as the named person with responsibility for carers. This could be a Year Head, Welfare Officer, Councillor or the Health and Well-being Officer.

- Supporting parents with mobility and/or access issues to facilitate and maintain regular contact with the school.
- Including issues on caring within the PDP curriculum can help to develop a holistic understanding of caring needs and responsibilities.

At The Hinckley School we will treat young carers in a sensitive way, upholding confidentiality, whilst considering a whole family approach. We will follow child protection and safeguarding procedures, regarding any young carer that is at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate caring responsibilities or an inappropriate level of care giving.

We recognise that every young carer's situation is different and that flexibility is required when responding to their needs. We will make a bespoke offer of support and endeavour to ensure that young carers will have the same access to full education and career opportunities as their peers and ensure that the whole School is committed to meet their needs.