



Young Carers Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Policy	Amendment	Staff Member	Committee/Date	FGB Approved	Start Review On
Young Carers	New Policy	AHT KS3 Behaviour, Standards & Safeguarding	Policy 29 June 2026	6 July 2026	1 March 2027

This policy remains effective until superseded

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YOUNG CARERS POLICY

1. Introduction

At Mayflower High School, we believe that young carers may need extra support when a young person has a caring responsibility to ensure that they have equal access to education.

The Children and Families Act 2014 definition of a young carer as:

‘A person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person’.

This can include caring for parents, grandparents and/or siblings. The person they care for may live with a physical condition or something more hidden, such as a mental health problem, an addiction, or neurodiversity. They might help with shopping, cooking and cleaning; managing medicines or money; providing personal care and/or emotional support; and may need to look after other siblings.

Mayflower High School is committed to meeting the needs of Young Carers so that they are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school and have equal access to their education as their peers and reach their full potential.

This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home. We work in conjunction with SCAFT (Supporting Carers and Families Together) to help support our students. This policy will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

2. Signs a student may have a caring role include:

- Frequent lateness and/or repeated absence, including missed days or extended periods off school without valid reason
- Often tired, anxious or withdrawn
- Having problems socially or with making friends. Conversely, do they get on well with adults and present as very mature for their age
- A victim of bullying
- Depressed
- Finding it difficult to concentrate on their work
- Having difficulty joining in extracurricular activities or being unable to attend school trips
- Isolated
- Not handing in their homework on time, or completing it late and to a low standard
- Anxious or concerned about an ill or disabled relative
- Displaying behavioural problems
- Having physical problems such as back pain (perhaps from heavy lifting)
- Secretive about home life
- Showing signs of physical neglect or poor diet, for example, hungry, thin or lacking a clean uniform
- Listed as a Child in Need, subject to a Child Protection plan, or Looked-after Child Plan, where parental ill health, a mental health problem or an addiction is involved

- A sibling of a student at the school who is registered with disabilities or ongoing health problems, including a mental health problem
- Are parents/carers disabled, ill or have a mental health problem or an addiction? (Remember that not all children who have a family member or friend who is ill, disabled or has a mental health problem or an addiction are young carers)
- Are parents/carers difficult to engage with, not attending parents' evenings or not communicating with school
- Are parents/carers on low incomes and unable to afford school-related expenses? This may be because of disability related unemployment

3. Identifying a Young Carer

As part of our school admissions for new pupils, the school will:

- Identify parents or family members who have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health conditions.
- Clarify whether the pupil has caring responsibilities.
- Identify whether the young carer has any additional needs that need to be supported, e.g. any SEND or social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs.

Where appropriate, a young carer may be referred to SCAFT or other agencies for support.

Parents/carers will also be contacted every year to inform the school if their child has become a young carer.

If a young person is recognised as a young carer, this is then noted onto MIS system and is identified with a purple flag.

The whole school understands the issues faced by young carers and their families, what to look and listen for and how to respond	In Place?
• A designated Young Carers school lead has been appointed with the responsibility for young carers and their families. Students and their families will be made aware of this member of staff and how to access support from them.	AHT KS3, Behaviour Standards & Safeguarding
• A designated young carers lead in the senior leadership team has been appointed to oversee the young carer provision.	AHT KS3, Behaviour Standards & Safeguarding
• Training and information for all staff on how to identify young carers and signpost them to the relevant support through continued professional development. To be completed yearly.	Yes
• Displaying information about the issues young carers face on staff and pupil noticeboards.	Yes
• Will proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face as well as the support that is available, for example, during assemblies, form time and PSHE lessons. To be completed yearly.	Yes
• To include space on the school application form for parents to declare whether or not their child is a young carer.	Yes

• The school has a close partnership with the local young carer agency, allowing for an effective referral system.	Yes
• Make referrals to the local young carers agency where appropriate and with the family and young person's permission.	Yes
• To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible, and ensure they take as full a part as possible in all school activities.	Yes
• The school will provide a safe and confidential space for our local young carers agency to visit the school and work with students who have been referred for 1:1 sessions.	Yes
The school ensures young carers and their families know how to access support	
• Information signposting young carers and their families to other resources, for example, the local young carers agency, school nurse and other services, is clearly accessible to students on the pupil noticeboard and school website.	Yes
• Providing families with information on the support we offer to young carers in our school newsletter. This will include details on who to contact and how.	Yes
The school takes a proactive approach to identifying young carers	
• Ask feeder schools to inform the school if a pupil has already been identified as a young carer.	Yes
• Use school application forms to check student information and to ask families whether the student has a family member that they may be caring for due to having an illness or disability, or who is affected by a mental health problem or an addiction. Asking whether they would like more information about the types of support available to young carers.	Yes
• Flagging identified young carers on our Bromcom system so that the attainment and attendance of a young carer can be monitored and understood. This will be identified with a purple flag.	Yes
The school understands the needs of families of young carers	
• Ensuring the school is welcoming and accessible to parents/carers with disabilities and/or illness, offering additional provisions to enable them to attend school events such as parents' evening.	Yes
Young Carers are respected	
• A young carer's privacy is respected, and information about them is not communicated in front of their peers.	Yes
• A family's privacy is respected, and the school only shares information with professionals on a need to know basis in order to support students and their families.	Yes
• The school will engage with and gather the views of young carers and their families to shape and improve the provision for young carers. This will be via drop-in sessions or a questionnaire.	Yes

The school will reduce barriers to education and learning and support the well-being of young carers	
• The school will use our internal management system to identify changes in attendance and attainment and consider whether these may be due to a potential caring role.	Yes
• Offering support to the student and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school/college/university lead for young carers and families.	Yes
• The school views young carers as any other student, but understands that they have the additional pressure of caring responsibilities, which may require additional support or flexible arrangements	Yes
• The school ensures young carers are listened to and given time and space to talk if they need to.	Yes
• The school can offer lunchtime detentions instead of after-school detentions due to responsibilities in their caring role.	Yes
• Where appropriate, the school will consider allowing extensions for coursework/homework.	Yes
• The school may allow the use of a telephone in a Year Manager's office at lunch/break times for young carers to call home and check in. This could help reduce any worries or concerns they may be having.	Yes
• Where appropriate, the school may allow the student to register in the form slightly later or leave earlier at the end of the day	Yes
• Where appropriate, the school may allow a 5-minute timeout from class. This would be at the school's discretion.	Yes

The Headteacher and the Young Carer Lead will continually monitor and review practice to ensure this policy is implemented correctly.

This policy will be reviewed by the governing board on an annual basis.