 HOLYPORT COLLEGE	Young Carers Policy	
	Effective Date: 29/02/2024	Version No: 2.0


Title	YOUNG CARERS POLICY
Person responsible for policy formulation, implementation, maintenance and evaluation	Assistant Headteacher Curriculum Support
Persons consulted	Mrs C Druce, Curriculum Support Officer Mrs A Jeffery, Assistant Headteacher Curriculum Support
Current Review	February 2024
Date of future review	February 2027

REVISION STATUS TABLE

Revision No	Effective Date	Summary of Revision	Reviewed		Approved/Noted	
			By	Date	By	Date
v1.0	15/07/21	New policy	SLT	15/7/21		
V2.0	Feb 2024	Ownership change and inclusion of new Census codes	AJE/CDR	29/2/24	GWC	29.02.24

POLICY DOCUMENT REVIEW

This Policy document is subject to a periodic review (every 3 years) by Holyport College that is formally documented to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness. Areas subject to review include, but are not limited to, follow-up action from previous reviews, policy conformity, review of complaints, status of corrective and preventive actions, and improvements for the forthcoming year. Holyport College reserves the right to amend this Policy by notice following such review in circumstances in which it considers such change to be necessary or appropriate.

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Introduction

This policy has been developed to recognise, promote and support students who are recognised as Young Carers.

At Holyport College we believe that all young people should have equal access to education, regardless of what is going on at home.

Holyport College understands that Young Carers are more likely to experience the challenges of social, emotional and mental health issues than their peers and that this can impact on their learning and behaviour. They may also have experienced disruptions to their education. We recognise that Young Carers will have specific, individual needs and will require varying amounts of support throughout their school careers.


Definition of a Young Carer

A Young Carer is defined in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014 as:

“A young person under the age of 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person” who is suffering from a physical or mental illness, physical or learning disability or addiction”.

The Children and Families Act 2014 and Care Act 2014 strengthen the rights of young carers and give greater protection of their welfare. The Acts place a duty on local authorities to carry out an assessment to establish the support needs of a young carer, which considers the needs of the whole family. A young carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care-giving and care responsibility becomes excessive or inappropriate for the young person, risking negative impact on his or her emotional, physical well-being, educational achievement and life chances.

The local council must involve the child with caring responsibilities, their parents and any other person the young carer requests in the assessment process. The assessment itself must look at whether or not the young carer wishes to continue caring, and whether it is appropriate for them to continue caring. When doing this they have to take into account any education, training, work or recreational activities the young carer is or wishes to participate in.

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What activities might their caring role involve?

The tasks and level of caring undertaken by young carers can vary according to the nature of the illness or disability, the level and frequency of need for care, and the structure of the family as a whole.


Young Carers often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.

These can include:

- Practical tasks – cooking, housework and shopping
- Physical care – lifting or helping someone use the stairs.
- Personal care – dressing, washing, helping with toileting needs.
- Emotional support – listening, calming, being present.
- Managing the family budget, collecting benefits and prescriptions.
- Medication management.
- Looking after younger siblings.
- Helping someone communicate

Why are many young carers hidden?

- The condition of the person they care for is not obvious so people don't think that the young person needs any help.
- Young carers do not realise that they are a carer or that their life is different to their peers.
- They don't want to be any different from their peers so they don't draw attention to their caring role.
- They believe that the school will show no interest in their family circumstances.
- They want to keep their identity at school separate from their caring role.
- It's not the sort of thing they feel they can discuss with their friends.
- There has been no opportunity to share their story.
- They are worried about bullying.
- They worry that the family will be split up and that they will be taken into care.
- They want to keep caring a secret and/or are embarrassed.

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- They see no reason to tell their story and don't believe that any positive action will occur as a result of doing so.


What impact can caring responsibilities have on a pupil's achievement and wellbeing?

Caring can affect a young person's:

- Physical health: Young carers are often severely affected by caring through the night, repeatedly lifting a heavy adult, poor diet and lack of sleep.
- Emotional wellbeing: Stress, tiredness and mental ill-health are common for young carers.
- Socialisation: Young carers often feel different or isolated from their peers and have limited opportunities for socialising. A quarter of young carers in the UK said they were bullied at school because of their caring role (Carers Trust, 2013).
- Stable environment: Young carers can experience traumatic life changes such as bereavement, family break-up, losing income and housing, or seeing the effects of an illness or addiction on the person they care for.
- As a result, caring responsibilities have a significant impact on a pupil's learning:
 - ❖ 27% of young carers of secondary school age in England experience educational difficulties or miss school (Dearden and Becker, 2004).
 - ❖ If left unsupported, young carers can continue to struggle with school and have significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level – the difference between nine Cs and nine Ds (The Children's Society, 2013).
 - ❖ Young carers are more likely than the national average not to be in education, employment or training (NEET) between 16 and 19. Of these, 75% had been NEET at least once (compared with 25% of all young people) and 42% had been NEET for six months or more (compared with 10% of all young people) (The Children's Society, 2013)

Being a Young Carer can impact on the things that are important to growing up:


- Young carers are already likely to have significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level than their peers (The Children's Society, 2013).
- The COVID-19 pandemic risks exacerbating the situation, stopping young carers from reaching their full potential.

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- With the added complications of COVID-19, young carers are missing even more school than before and urgent support is needed if they are not to be left behind their peers.
- Caring can have a dramatic detrimental effect on the education and aspirations of young and young adult carers, so urgent support is essential

How will Holyport College support Young Carers?

- Have at minimum one ‘Young Carers Champion’ who has responsibility for young carers within our college setting. The current champion for Holyport College is: Claire Druce, Curriculum Support Officer: c.druce@holypportcollege.org.uk.
- Disseminate learning around young carers to staff teams and young people
- Explore opportunities to set up and run a young carers group or drop in sessions
- Refer young carers and their families into Family Actions’s Young Carers service for an assessment of support needs
- Respect the rights of young carers and their families by sharing information on a ‘need to know basis’.
- Will consider the impact caring has on a young carer with regards to their overall wellbeing and development, and support their needs accordingly.
- During the school enrolment process for new pupils the school will:
 - ❖ Identify parents or family members who have disabilities or other long term physical or mental health conditions.
 - ❖ Identify if the pupil has caring responsibilities and if this means this Young Carer has any additional needs that need to be supported.
 - ❖ Establish individual plans to recognise the child’s / young person’s specific needs as a Young Carer.
 - ❖ Ensure intervention is targeted and young carers are supported
- Holyport College views Young Carers as any other pupil but understands that they have the additional pressure of caring responsibilities.
- The College will identify Young Carers at risk of falling into the NEET category and take appropriate actions to address this.
- Data will be used and evaluated effectively to identify and monitor the progress made by Young Carers
- Holyport College will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

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From Spring 2023, Young Carers are to be included on the school census return. This will enable a much better picture of the number of young carers in schools, but also provides opportunities to use this data to monitor attendance and attainment of young carers.

- Schools will be able to use the following codeset (CS118):

Code	Young Carer Indicator
N	Not declared
P	Identifies as a young carer by parent or guardian
S	Identifies as a Young Carer by school