

Policy Reference Number	
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Originator	Sonia Wood
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A Introduction

A.1 This Young Carers Policy has been developed to recognise, promote and support students.

At Solihull Sixth Form we believe that all Young People have the right to an education regardless of what is happening at home. When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, they may need extra support to help to ensure that they achieve their potential.

B Definition

B.1 A Young Carer (YC) is a young person (16-25) who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill, or has a substance misuse problem. At Solihull Sixth Form we recognise that caring can also involve physical and emotional care, or taking responsibility for someone's safety or well-being. The level of responsibility assumed by a young carer is often inappropriate to their age and at a level beyond simply helping out with jobs at home, which is a normal part of growing up, and as such may impact on the education of the young person.

C Identifying a Young Carer

C.1 A Young Carer may disclose their caring duties on the College's application form, during interview or enrolment, or whilst they are on course. A young carer may also be identified by negative aspects of their behaviour or work in College. Some young carers may seek to conceal their role from their peers and from teachers for fear of exposing family members or of appearing different.

Some of the indications that a student is in a caring role are:

- Regular lateness, or unauthorised absence, possibly increasing periodically
- Tiredness during the college day
- Lack of homework completed or of poor quality
- Lack of concentration, or increased anxiety or worry

- Under-achievement of potential capability
- Behavioural problems
- Apparent parental disinterest, delays in response, non-attendance to parents/carers' evening or other events
- Poor hygiene/physical appearance

D Support Offered

D.1 We recognise that each Young Carer is an individual and therefore will require different types and levels of support. Every Young Carer will receive support from their academic coach. The college also has a Lead Academic Coach who oversees the progress and support of our Young Carers. Young Carers can also expect support of teachers in understanding the impact of a student's caring role on their education. Young Carers are also encouraged to access support from the Solihull Young Carers Team who attend College on a regular basis.

More information about the support available can be found in Appendix 1.

D.2 We will:

- Have a named Academic Coach who has lead responsibility for Young Carers at College.
- Have a named Governor who will oversee the provision for Young Carers.
- Provide opportunities for appropriate peer support from students at college and in Trust schools through our Young Carers group.
- Work closely with external Young Carer bodies to ensure appropriate support.
- Support young carers' next steps to ensure they benefit from widening participation opportunities available from HE institutions and apprenticeship providers.

APPENDIX 1: Young Carers Protocol

Referral is made to the YC's local Young Carers support group i.e. the one that covers their home address, not the College. We have to date YC's who are supported by the following organisations:

Solihull <https://www.solihullcarers.org/category/young-carers/>

Birmingham <https://spurgeonsyc.org/birmingham/>

Sandwell <https://www.sandwellyc.com/>

Warwickshire <https://www.warwickshireyoungcarers.org.uk/>

But of course there may be more as we recruit students from the wider West Midlands area. A quick Google search of the area + young carers (e.g. 'Oldbury young carers' should identify the student's local young carers' organisation.

Role of the SDOs

- Leading the College through Young Carers' Federation Quality Mark
- Liaising with Solihull Young Carers regarding visits to the College and names of any students of whom we are aware of at College.

Role of ACs

- Be aware of students with young caring duties
- Make the relevant external referrals for students who disclose YC responsibilities during AC meetings
- Inform YC of bursary
- Liaise with teaching staff regarding impact of caring duties on learning
- Refer to Lead AC for Young Carers.

Role of AC with YC responsibility

- To interview prospective students who identify themselves as young carers where possible
- To oversee the referral of YCs to their local Young Carer support group
- To monitor the progress of identified YCs
- To support ACs in supporting identified YCs
- To identify and implement ways in which YCs can be better supported at College e.g. focus groups / Carers Café
- Liaise with external agencies as necessary
- Provide opportunities for appropriate peer support for YCs at College and in Trust schools through our Young Carers group

Role of ALS

- Initial assessment of any identified AL support needs
- Recording of YC status on Tyber, with appropriate permission of YC
- Add YC to entry to College without ID list

Other sources of information and support

- NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/support-and-benefits-for-carers/being-a-young-carer-your-rights/>