

Young Carers Policy

2025 - 2027

Date of Approval:	March 2025
Approved by:	Local Academy Board
Date of next Review:	September 2027



1. Aims

Wyvern Academy acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, the school is giving the message that young carers' education is important. This policy outlines how we will seek to identify, raise awareness of and offer support to any pupil who looks after someone at home.

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers.
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students.
- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school.
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible.
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students.
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities.
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision.
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities.
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

Definition

We define a Young Carer as a young person under the age of 18 who has caring responsibilities for a family member with a disability, health condition or substance misuse issue. Young carers may provide physical care, personal care, help with medication or practical tasks, or provide emotional support.

2. Strategies

- To include young carers identification as part of the school's admissions process for parents to declare:
 - whether or not their child is a young carer.
 - whether or not their child is registered as a young carer.
- To create a young carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff.
- To appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision.
- To monitor the progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary.
- To monitor the attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary.
- To make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case-by case basis regarding issues such as lateness to school, late homework and poor attendance.
- To ensure that young carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary.
- To offer young carers extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection for young carers.
- To support young carers in getting to and from the school where necessary.
- To ensure that young carers can contribute to the discussion around the school provision for young carers.
- To offer a programme of careers advice and guidance and, where possible, work experience placements.
- To maintain and regularly review our young carer's policy.
- To add the pupil to the vulnerable pupils' list and ensure they receive access to HAF (holiday and food funding) where appropriate.
- The school will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and staff will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- The school appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- The school will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- The school will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.

- The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.