

Young Carers Policy

September 2021

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1. Introduction

Wyvern Academy is dedicated to ensuring the well-being and safety of all pupils so that all pupils are afforded every opportunity to achieve their own full potential during their time with us and during stages of transition. In order to do this we recognise the importance of whole family working and specifically to Young Carers and the vital role they play in supporting their families. Wyvern Academy work in partnership with Human kind Darlington Young Carers to demonstrate our commitment to Young Carers and their families.

2. Aims

This policy has been developed and adopted to:

- Offer a definition of Young Carers
- To demonstrate how we will support Young Carers identified to us
- To ensure we are accountable for supporting Young Carer

3. Definition

The official definition of a Young Carer as defined by the Children and Families Act 2014 is as follows:

The term “Young Carer” should be taken to include 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). For the purposes of this memorandum, this relates to care for any family member who is physically or mentally ill, frail, elderly, disabled or misuses alcohol or substances.

NB A Young Adult Carer can be aged up to 25.

4. Definition of caring responsibilities

Children and Young People who may be classified as Young Carers under the above definition may be carrying out one or more of the following:

- Household tasks e.g. cleaning and tidying, laundry
- Personal Care e.g. bathing, changing dressing,
- Cooking
- Shopping and Dealing with Finances
- Administering/sorting or reminding about medication
- Helping with Younger Siblings
- Offering Emotional Support e.g. ensuring safety, keeping them company, listening to worries

Assisting with mobility

6. Identifying young carers

Often Young Carers may be “hidden” and do not always come forward. Wyvern Academy uses the following approaches to encourage the identification of Young Carers:

- Pupils to receive an annual assembly from Humankind
- Display posters and information in schools regarding support available to Young Carers that is easy to access for both pupils and their families
- Provide a Young Carers Lead, the Attendance and Welfare Officer, for any staff/pupils/families to discuss concerns and worries

- Staff access training around Young Carers and the issues they face

7. Supporting young carers

Wyvern Academy commits to supporting identified Young Carers by:

- Having a referral system for ease of access to services
- Offering Young Carers access to an adult in school to talk to
- Young Carers will be made known to SLT and class teacher on need to know basis (see below Right to Confidentiality).
- Offering Young carers access to counselling or support as necessary and appropriate
- Support at points of transition
- Will actively seeking the views of Young Carers and their families

Recognising caring responsibilities in EHA / TAF processes

8. The right to confidentiality

A Young Carer will have the right to have their circumstances remain totally confidential and choose, if any, which members of staff have access to their family situation. Confidentiality must remain in line with both our own and Local Authority safeguarding arrangements.

9. Additional support

If you wish to obtain further information about Young Carers please visit:

- www.youngcarer.com
- www.carers.org/what-young-carer

For information on specific services within Darlington for Young Carers please contact:

Humankind Darlington Young Carers
Unit 2B Enterprise House
Valley Street North
Darlington
DL1 1GY
Telephone: (01325) 483 038
Email: dyc@humankindcharity.org.uk

This policy will be reviewed by Governors every two years or earlier if considered necessary.