



Hayle Academy

SUPPORTING YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Dissemination: Website and Shared Drive

Date policy approved by Governors: March 2024

Date policy becomes effective: Immediately

Review date: March 2026

Person responsible for Implementation and Monitoring: Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Young Carers

Links to other relevant policies: Safeguarding, Behaviour and Attendance Policies, Exclusion Policies

At Hayle Academy, we believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their situation at home. When a young person has a caring responsibility they may need extra support to help them get the most out of school. 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 are working in conjunction with the Kernow Young Carers Service to provide this support.¹

Who is a Young Carer?

We define a Young Carer as a young person 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.

Definition of Caring

Caring responsibilities are defined not just in terms of practical support, such as for the following practical tasks: shopping, cooking, and cleaning. They are also defined in terms of emotional support and the emotional impact on young people of care needs within a family.

Aims

- Improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for Young Carers
- Address any underlying inequalities between Young Carers and other students
- Raise awareness of Young Carers among staff and ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school

¹ www.kernowyoungcarers.org.uk

- Ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community as possible
- Foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students
- Ensure that Young Carers take as full a part as possible in all school activities, removing any identified barriers wherever reasonably possible
- Ensure that Young Carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision
- Ensure that Young Carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities

Strategies



- Include space on school application forms for parents to declare:
 - a) Whether or not their child is a Young Carer
 - b) Whether or not their child is registered as a Young Carer
- Work with Kernow Young Carers to ensure that all relevant school staff receive training around how to identify and support Young Carers
- Create and maintain a Young Carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff
- Appoint a member of the Governing Body who will be responsible for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to Young Carers
- Appoint a Young Carer Lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing Young Carer provision
- Monitor the progress of Young Carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- Monitor the attendance of Young Carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- 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
- Ensure that Young Carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary
- Work with Kernow Young Carers to raise awareness of Young Carers and develop a culture of respect for Young Carers among the student community.
- Encourage Young Carers to feel empowered to be proactive and to take an active role in raising awareness through student assemblies, tutor and Global Values activities

- Offer Young Carers extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection with other Young Carers
- Ensure that Young Carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the school provision for Young Carers
- Offer a programme of careers advice and guidance and, where possible, work experience placements
- Maintain and regularly review our Young Carer's policy; this will be reviewed bi-annually
- Ensure the designated professional for Young Carers will liaise with relevant colleagues and other relevant agencies regarding their caring responsibilities, with the consent of the Young Carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated professional
- 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
- 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
- School will ensure Young Carers can access all available support services in school
- School will follow child protection procedures regarding any Young Carer at risk of significant harm. For example, due to inappropriate levels of caring
- School recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):
 - a) access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime to phone home
 - b) negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed and where possible)
 - c) access to homework clubs (where these are available)
 - d) identifying support for them and their family to enable them to attend school trips and educational activities
 - e) access for parents with impaired mobility
 - f) alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound
 - g) advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a Young Carer to school
 - h) access to school for wider support i.e. food bank

Appendix A Expectations

What we expect from Young Carers	What Young Carers can expect from us
<p>To take part as fully as possible in lessons and opportunities offered in school.</p>	<p>Ensure that Young Carers is a topic covered in tutor time activities at least yearly, and that it forms part of assemblies/Global Values lessons where possible.</p> <p>Deliver staff training on the topic as regularly as is necessary to keep staff informed about procedures.</p> <p>Make staff aware, with permission from the Young Carer and their family, when circumstances are likely to interfere with lessons and/or homework.</p> <p>Inform Careers Advisor about any Young Carers and offer them 1:1 careers advice about realistic future opportunities.</p>
<p>Tell us in advance of deadlines if there are issues completing homework.</p>	<p>Allow agreed-upon extensions for homework tasks where possible.</p> <p>Support students to complete homework during the school day using the library and/or study support sessions.</p> <p>Avoid issuing negative points on ClassCharts if extension given for homework for this reason.</p>
<p>Make us aware of any changes to your caring role.</p>	<p>Allow use of mobile phone in a designated area (e.g. pastoral office, careers office) and/or contact home from reception if worried during the school day.</p> <p>If necessary, meet with Young Carer (and parents/guardians) to discuss further support.</p>
<p>Let us know if you need more support.</p>	<p>We have a designated member of staff named as Young Carer Lead who can provide support in the form of a monthly drop-in session and who can be approached in person if you have a problem relating to your caring role.</p> <p>We can provide contact details and information about local Young Carers groups via students and staff contacts.</p>

Appendix B Phase 1 Action Plan

Phase 1 February 2024- September 2024			
Spring 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appointment of member of SLT as designated lead (RWI)• Appointment of link governor• Young Carers Policy updated and approved• Young Carers Awareness Week wb. 11th March - assemblies for all• Young Carers section added to the website• Monthly drop-ins established• Noticeboard created• YCIS Award application by 28th March (can be deferred to 28th June)		
Summer 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young Carers voice panel to reflect upon the above progress and identify next steps• Practical strategies for the targeted monitoring of YC - attendance, behaviour and progress created and shared with staff, students and parents/carers• Administration of Young Carers on Arbor (home/school identification)• Awareness training for all staff		
For Sept 2024	Young carers issues embedded into wider curriculum and school plans.		