



Young Carers Policy

SCOPE:	Trust Policy
AUTHOR/ORIGINATOR:	Education
NAME OF RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL:	CEO, Sector Directors & Academy Principals
APPROVING COMMITTEE:	Trust Board
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Outstanding Achievement for All

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

PRINCIPLES OF THE YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Ambitions Academies Trust values the abilities and achievements of all students and is committed to providing for each student the best possible environment for learning. We believe that all pupils should be equally valued and strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination. We aim to create an environment whereby all students will flourish and feel safe. We are committed to inclusion and equal opportunities and actively seek to remove barriers to learning and participation that can otherwise hinder or exclude students.

Our young carers policy takes account of findings and recommendations given by Barnardo's Still Hidden, Still Ignored; Who Cares for Young Carers? report published in 2017, which emphasises the role and accountability of school staff and procedures regarding provision for, and progress of, young carers. This guidance suggests that schools have a key part to play in the provision of holistic and effective support to young carers, and our Governing Body will ensure that we fulfil this responsibility.

This policy has been produced in collaboration with local experts, MYTIME Young Carers.

DEFINITION OF A YOUNG CARER

- 1) A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone at home. Most are caring for a parent, commonly in a single parent family, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one family member.
- 2) The person they look after will be living with one or more of the following:
 - a) physical disability (including sensory disability)
 - b) learning disability
 - c) mental health condition
 - d) chronic illness
 - e) substance use disorder

CARING TASKS

- 3) A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer may act as sole or main carer, or may share responsibilities with another family member. Caring tasks may include:
 - a) nursing care eg. administering medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility etc.
 - b) personal intimate care eg. washing, dressing, feeding, helping with toilet requirements etc.
 - c) emotional care eg. being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression, trying to cheer them up etc.

- d) domestic care eg. doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc.
- e) financial care eg. running the household, paying bills, collecting benefits etc.
- f) childcare eg. taking responsibility for younger siblings.

AIMS OF YOUNG CARER PROVISION ACROSS THE ACADEMIES

- 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 are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision.
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities.

We recognise that many students will have caring responsibilities at some point during their time at the school, and that these responsibilities can impact a student's performance in any area of the curriculum; a whole school commitment is therefore necessary.

Ambitions Academies Trust acknowledges that high standards and expectations are crucial to enhance personal and academic progress for all students, including those with caring responsibilities. Therefore, additional provision for young carers is balanced with appropriate challenge to reach longer term outcomes and opposes a sympathetic acceptance of low achievement. As a school, we aim to demonstrate that all students are capable of excellence in relation to individual circumstances. The importance of enhancing positive self-esteem is also recognised, which allows opportunities for increased engagement, social development, and achievement.

We aim to meet the needs of young carers in a graduated and timely manner and recognise the importance of coordination with other agencies.

We also acknowledge the need to keep up to date with advice, publications, and research regarding provision for young carers, and therefore this document is subject to review at regular intervals.

EQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION

Ambitions Academies Trust aims to make reasonable steps to ensure that young carers are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to other students, and to ensure equal educational and social opportunity for all.

We strive to maintain a climate of tolerance, understanding, respect and trust that allows all students and staff irrespective of background or personal circumstances to feel safe and be safe from any form of discrimination or emotional harm. This young carer policy is

supported by other Ambition Academies Trust policies including our Equal Opportunities policy which can be viewed separately on the school website.

STRATEGIES

- a) We will ensure admission forms allow opportunities for identification as a young carer. We will ask parents to declare whether or not their child is a young carer, and whether or not their child is registered as a young carer.
- b) All our staff will receive CPD training from MYTIME young Carers.
- c) We will make resources accessible to all staff that aid the identification and support of young carers.
- d) We will create a young carer forum to give young carers a voice.
- e) We will give our young carers the opportunities for one-to-one staff time.
- f) We will appoint a member of the Governing Body who will be responsible for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to young carers.
- g) We will appoint a member of staff to lead on young carer provision who will be responsible for maintaining a young carer support group, and corresponding with external agencies such as local councils to stay up to date on a young carer's circumstances and needs.
- h) We will monitor the progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary.
- i) We will monitor the attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary.
- j) We will provide a quiet space where homework can be completed at school if the atmosphere at home is not conducive to study.
- k) We will work with MYTIME Young Carers to offer extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure, and social connection for young carers.
- l) We will work with MYTIME Young Carers to build the career aspirations of young carers.
- m) We will correspond with MYTIME Young Carers to provide access to counselling for young carers if needed.
- n) We will participate in activities that raise awareness of young carers including assemblies.
- o) We will actively encourage young carers to be part of the school's language and recognised by parents, students, and the wider community via our school newsletters, displays and social media.
- p) We will maintain and regularly review our young carer's policy.

GUIDANCE AND FURTHER READING

Barnardo's Still Hidden, Still Ignored; Who Cares for Young Carers:

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/Still%20Hidden%20Still%20Ignored%20Barnardo%27s%20young%20carers%20report.pdf>

Policy Prepared: June 2021

Ratified by Governors:

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