



THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

Young Carers Policy 2026

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Review Frequency	Annual
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Released	Jan 2026	
Next Due Review	Jan 2027	

The Stonehenge School Young Carers Policy

1. Introduction

At The Stonehenge School we are committed to supporting the wellbeing, inclusion, and achievement of all students, including those with caring responsibilities at home. A **young carer** is someone under the age of 16 who provides care, assistance, or support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled, or misuses substances. Over the age of 16, or once they have left Secondary School, they are classed as **young adult carers**. For the purposes of this policy, we will use the term 'young carer' for Stonehenge School students, and this will include those who are 16 years old.

This policy outlines our commitment to ensuring that young carers are recognised, valued, and supported so that they can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally within our school community.

2. Policy Aims

This policy aims:

- To **improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement** for young carers.
- To **promote equity** between young carers and their peers.
- To **raise awareness** of young carers among staff and ensure **early identification** upon entry to the school.
- To ensure that young carers feel **included and supported** within their school community.
- To **foster respect and understanding** of young carers among all students.
- To ensure young carers can **fully participate in school activities**.
- To **involve young carers in decision-making** about the support they receive.
- To ensure young carers have access to **appropriate careers guidance** and opportunities.
- To **recognise the need for flexibility** when responding to the individual circumstances of young carers.

3. Identification of Young Carers

- As part of the creation and monitoring of Universal Learning Passports, students will be asked about any caring responsibilities at home.
- All parents of new students will be asked to (in a sensitive and confident manner) whether their child has a caring role at home, as part of the admissions process.
- Staff will be trained to recognise indicators that a student may be a young carer.
- Students and families will be encouraged to self-identify through ongoing communication and a supportive school environment.

4. Support Structures

Designated Young Carers Lead

- The Pastoral Manager for the disadvantaged will be the **Young Carers Lead**, responsible for coordinating provision and being a point of contact for students and families.

Personalised Support

- Young carers will have access to additional academic monitoring through the raising standards process, which takes place after milestone assessments.
- Reasonable adjustments (e.g. flexible deadlines, access to homework clubs) will be made where appropriate.
- Emotional support will be available through counselling or pastoral care, including drop-in sessions with the Young Carers Lead.
- We recognise that Young Carers may face additional pressures around exam periods and will consider what personalised support may be appropriate for them at this time.

Communication

- The school will maintain open, confidential communication with families to understand and respond to young carers' needs with an accessible person to approach via the Young Carers Lead.
- Parents will have input into the best method of communication.

5. Inclusion and Participation

- Young carers will be actively encouraged and supported to participate in extracurricular activities, trips, and school events.
- Any barriers to participation will be identified and addressed (e.g. financial assistance, arranging transport).
- One space per trip will be allocated as a priority for Young Carers.

6. Raising Awareness

- Staff will receive annual training to understand the challenges faced by young carers and how to respond appropriately.
- Pupils will be identified via ClassCharts and SIMS to inform staff knowledge of the cohort.
- Pupils will have a Universal Learning Passport created to provide information about the best way to support them; this will be communicated to all staff.
- Awareness campaigns, assemblies, and PSHE sessions will promote empathy, inclusion, and respect among students. These will happen annually.

7. Voice and Involvement

- Young carers will be invited to share their views on support provision through student voice forums, surveys, and regular meetings with the Young Carers Lead.
- Their feedback will inform policy reviews and development of provision.

8. Careers Education and Transition Support

- Young carers will have tailored access to careers advice and guidance, including priority access to the school's Careers Coordinator.
- They will be supported with post-16 transitions, with close liaison with further education providers as needed.

9. Confidentiality and Safeguarding

- The school recognises the need to handle disclosures about a student's caring responsibilities sensitively.
- Information will only be shared with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis and with the student's and family's consent, unless there are safeguarding concerns.

10. Monitoring and Review

- The policy will be reviewed annually, incorporating the views of young carers, families, and staff.
- The impact of the policy will be evaluated through academic data, attendance, participation, and wellbeing indicators.

11. Responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team:

- Ensure whole-school commitment and allocate appropriate resources.

Young Carers Lead:

- Identify and support young carers.
- Liaise with external agencies and local carers services.
- Maintain a register (confidential) of known young carers.

All Staff:

- Be vigilant for signs of caring responsibilities.
- Follow safeguarding and referral procedures.
- Foster an inclusive and respectful environment.
- Be prepared to adapt to support students with caring responsibilities.

12. Useful Contacts

- Wiltshire Council Young Carers information page:
<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-young-people-young-carers>
- Youth Action Wiltshire Young Carers Service:
<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/yaw/young-carers/>
- Pastoral Manager for the disadvantaged at The Stonehenge School:
office@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk
- SLT with responsibility for young carers: office@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk
- Young carers designated email: youngcarers@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk