



Young Carers Policy

Young Carers in Schools

Definition of a young carer

‘Young carers are children and young people under 18 years old who provide unpaid care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances.’ (Carers Trust, 2014)

Definition of a young adult carer

‘Young adult carers are young people aged 14-25 who care, unpaid, for a friend or family member who could not cope without their support’ (Carers Trust, 2014)

At Longsands Academy, we are aware that some of our students may be caring for family member at home and may require support to help them attend and enjoy school in the same way as other students to achieve their potential.

We have the following practices and strategies in place to support Young Carers in our Academy:

- There is a designated Young Carers School Lead with responsibility for young carers and their families
 - The Young Carer’s Operational Lead is: **Anne Davies**
 - The Young Carer’s Senior Leadership Team Lead is: **Clare Greaney**
- Longsands academy has adopted a whole school approach to supporting Young Carers and their families, and information will only be shared with professionals and agencies on a ‘need to know’ basis in order to support young carers and their families;
- partnership working with local Young Carers services has been developed to embed ongoing training on Young Carers for our staff;
- information and signposting is available for students, staff and families to access regarding the identification of Young Carers and how to self-identify;

- identification of Young Carers during the admissions process is in place to actively monitor attendance and attainment and appropriate action will be taken to support Young Carers and their families where attendance and attainment drops below the expected level;
- support for Young Carers and their family during the transition process is available to share agreed information with their new school/ college about their caring role;
- Longsands Academy will look to consider alternative arrangements if a Young Carer cannot attend after school activities. Lunchtime detentions will also be considered rather than after school;
- Longsands academy; will allow Young Carers to use a phone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes to reduce the worry that they may have about a family member;
- Longsands Academy actively seeks feedback from our Young Carers and their families to look at how we can improve the support we put in place;
- pupil premium funding will be used where possible to minimise any barriers to education and learning experienced by eligible Young Carers;
- an effective referral system and strong partnership with relevant external agencies is in place and with the school nurse and local Young Carers service.