



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
OXFORDSHIRE
ACADEMY TRUST



YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Version 1.0

November 2023

*Wellbeing
Committee*

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1. Intent Statement

Wallingford School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, the school is giving the message that young carers' education is important.

2. Aims

- 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 take as full a part as possible in all school activities.
- 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.
- To recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

3. Strategies

Strategies could include:

- Providing a space on school application forms for parents to declare:
- Whether or not their child is a young carer.
- Whether or not their child is registered as a young carer.
- Working with Be Free Young Carers (or other young carer charities if appropriate) to ensure that all relevant school staff receive training around how to identify and support young carers.
- Creating a young carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff.
- Appointing a member of the governing body who will be responsible for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to young carers.

- Appointing a young carer lead in the senior leadership team, who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision.
- Appointing 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, where appropriate, to stay up to date on a young carer's circumstances and needs.
- Ensuring young carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary.
- Supporting – if appropriate – with communication around homework, deadlines and attendance.
- Maintaining and regularly reviewing our young carers policy. This will be reviewed every two years.

4. Additional Information

- The 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.
- The 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.
- The school will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way.
- The school will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

5. Medium- and Long-term Flow Chart of Young Carers Strategy

See flow chart on next page.

