

TDAP033E YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Requisite: Recommended			Responsible Committee: FGB		
Vers.	Approval Date	Committee	Head	Chair	Next Review Date
A	18/11/2009	Student Support			01/05/2013
C	22/04/2015	Student Support			01/05/2019
D	15/05/2019	FGB			01/05/2022
E	09/05/2022	FGB			01/05/2025

Rationale and Purpose

At The Dorcan Academy we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

We acknowledge that there are likely to be Young Carers among our students, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education.

We have adopted our Young Carers policy so that we will be able to relieve some of the worries which Young Carers may have about home and their school work, and show that we believe their education is important.

• Procedures

We will ensure that the Young Carers Policy is implemented in conjunction with the following points:

- School to support Young Carers by providing a named member of staff with lead responsibility.
- Include issues around disability, mental ill health and Young Carers in PSHE and Citizenship curriculum.
- Avoid stigmatisation or labelling of students who are carers and provide guidance on preventing bullying.
- Ensure parents can access school for open evenings, etc. and if this is not possible, consider how links can be made with home.
- Have an agreed confidentiality policy, which includes statements on child protection.
- Includes thinking about sensitivities and differences around cultural needs, including refugees.

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- Consider how information on students' pastoral needs can be effectively passed between primary and secondary school or across other phases.
- Provide specific staff training.
- Include mechanisms for effective inter-agency work to support Young Carers (including child protection procedures if required).
- Include mechanisms to consult with Young Carers and their parents about content of policies and delivery of support.
- Include methods of regularly evaluating the effectiveness of policy and support (in addition to meeting OFSTED requirements).
- We will work towards maintaining the Young Carers Award.

Who are Young Carers?

Young Carers are children and young people whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. They are carrying out tasks and responsibilities, which are additional to those appropriate for their age. The person they look after may have one or more of the following:

- Physical disability
- Mental health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Long-term illness

The person they care for may be a parent, sibling, or grandparent and the care they give may be physical and/or emotional.

Young Carers' responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (e.g. bathing, dressing, feeding)
- Giving or prompting medication/injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Looking after younger siblings
- Budgeting and paying bills

Young Carers can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life is often restricted with few opportunities for fun and after school activities.

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Factors which may indicate that a young person is caring include:

- Illness or disability in the family
- Being late or absent (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and/or often tired
- Academic performance below potential
- Homework often uncompleted
- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- Not making use of out of school activities
- Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a safe environment
- Behavioural problems
- Limited contact with school by parents
- Being bullied

Action taken following Disclosure of Young Carer Role

When a young person has shared information regarding their caring role the relevant Head of House will discuss with them the benefits of being identified as a Young Carer and will encourage them to allow the school to refer them for assessment by Swindon Carers, if they are not known to them already.

The referral process is straight forward and involves the young person, parents and the school.

On receipt of the referral contact is made directly with the family and the assessment completed. Some families prefer not to become involved with this process – this does not prevent the student at The Dorcan Academy being involved in our Young Carer support activities on offer.

If a young person is a Young Carer this is recorded on the school's student data base and is noted in the Personal Information section for any given student.

If a young person transfers to the school mid-year there is a question asked at the admissions meeting regarding any possible young carer role.

If we believe that someone is a young carer we will be sensitive when we approach them about this as we appreciate they may not want their peers to know. Before passing this information on to relevant colleagues we will obtain the consent of the young carer.

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Support Offered

As a school we will:

- Designate a member of staff with specific responsibilities for Young Carers. This person is Mirelle Tchoya. We will make sure all students know who this is.
- Information on the life of a Young Carer given in an Assembly
- Give information to the young person about Young Carers and what information and support is available
- Liaise with appropriate agencies i.e. Swindon Young Carers
- Consider alternatives and be flexible when responding to the needs of Young Carers. This may include (but is not limited to) access to a telephone at break times, lunchtime detentions, negotiable deadlines for homework or opportunities to do homework at lunch times
- Study Group after school Monday to Thursday where there is access to computers and staff to help with homework
- Run a monthly support group during DEAR time where they can relax and chat with other young carers.
- Weekly support sessions during lunch time in M6 to talk.
- Access to counselling where possible in school

We also have an open-door policy where they can meet Ms Murphy and Ms Tchoya to talk and a box in the library where they leave a message detailing any issue they don't want to necessarily talk about.

Sharing of Information

- At Year 6 transfer there is liaison with feeder schools to ensure identification of new entrant Young Carers. This will help with the settling in process.
- If a Young Carer leaves The Dorcan Academy the information around their caring role will be shared with the receiving school.
- At Year 11 transfer to further education there is liaison with the colleges so that they are aware of the identity of Young Carers joining them from The Dorcan Academy.

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- **Revision Notes**

Rev A	original statement approved by Governors 18 November 2009
Rev B	amendment to new format and revisions: to be considered by Student Support Committee on 1 st May 2013 and for ratification by FGB on 22 nd May 2013
Rev C	review in line with policy schedule and considered by Student Support Committee on 22 April 2015
Rev D	review in line with policy schedule and considered by FGB on 15/05/2019
Rev E	Review in line with policy schedule May 2022 agreed and approved by the FTB 09/05/2022

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Appendix I

The Governing Body's legal responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of children goes beyond basic child protection procedures. The duty is now to ensure that safeguarding permeates all activity and functions. This policy therefore complements and supports a range of other policies

- Complaints
- Safeguarding Children and Young people
- Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying
- Lettings and Use of Premises
- Special Educational Needs
- School trips
- Curriculum
- Children in Care
- Health and Safety
- Sex and Relationships Education
- Security
- Equality Diversity and Community Cohesion
- Students with Medical Needs
- Internet Access and Use
- Use of ICT and Website
- Young Carers
- Privacy, Confidentiality, Information Sharing and Data
- Whistle blowing

The above list is not exhaustive but when undertaking development or planning of any kind the school will consider safeguarding matters.