Huish Episcopi Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Somerset YCiS AWARD

Young Carers' Policy

Statement of Intent

Huish Episcopi Academy acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, the school is outlining the importance of the educational provision and support of our students identified as young carers.

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
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

Strategies

- To include 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
- To work with support agencies, including the Somerset YCiS Coordinator, to ensure that all relevant school staff receive training around how to identify and support young carers
- To create a young carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff
- To appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision
- To 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 to stay up to date on a young carer's circumstances and needs. The young carer lead is Suzie England – Huish Episcopi Academy.
- To monitor the progress of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary

- To monitor the attendance of young carers and respond accordingly with appropriate intervention where necessary
- To make reasonable adjustments to usual school policies and show flexibility on a case-by-case basis regarding issues such as lateness to school, late homework and poor attendance
- To ensure that young carers have access to the mental health support available across the school where necessary
- To work with external agencies to raise awareness of young carers and develop a culture of respect for young carers among the student community and also to encourage young carers to come forwards and make themselves known by delivering student assemblies and PSHE lessons
- To offer young carers extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection for young carers
- To support young carers in getting to school
- To ensure that young carers have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion around the school provision for young carers
- To offer a programme of careers advice and guidance
- To maintain and regularly review our young carer's policy. This will be reviewed annually
- To ensure the designated Lead for young carers will liaise with relevant colleagues and other relevant agencies regarding their caring responsibilities, with the consent of the young carer. All pupils will be made aware of the designated Lead by way of noticeboard or other form of communication.
- To add the pupil to the vulnerable pupils' list and ensure they receive access to activities and resources where appropriate
- 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 person-centred way, upholding confidentiality
- The school will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school
- The school will carefully monitor attendance, attainment and put measures in place to support transition
- The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring
- The school recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):
    a) access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime to phone home, the young carer would need to find a member of staff and ask for a space to make this phone call.

b) negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)

c) access to homework clubs (where these are available)

d) identifying support for them and their family to enable them to attend school trips and educational activities

e) access for parents with impaired mobility

f) alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound

g) advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school

h) Access to school for wider support i.e. food bank

- A regular commitment to staff training (including new staff) annually.
- A regular commitment to assemblies/PSHE lessons annually.
- A regular commitment to seeking the views of young carers regarding the school's young carer provision through meetings with the young carers.

Checked by Amy Houghton-Barnes, Assistant Principal and DSL and Suzie England, Young Carers Lead	September 2026
Ratified by the LGB:	October 2026
To be reviewed:	October 2027

Appendix 1

Examples of whole-school models of support for young carers

Example A – Taken from 'Supporting Young Carers: A resource for schools'; Carers Trust, The Children's Society, www.youngcarers.info

