

JOHN SPENDLUFFE TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE



YOUNG CARERS POLICY

Approved by:	Full Governing Body	Date: February 2025
Ratified on behalf of JTSC Young Carers by:	Emily Arnott- Young Carer Champion	February 2025
Last reviewed in:	February 2025	
Next review due by:	February 2026	

John Spendluffe Technology College

Young Carers Policy

Intent Statement

At JSTC, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home.

When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, he or she may need a little extra support to help him or her get the most out of school. Our Young Carers Policy says how we will help students who have a caring role at home.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person (under 19 years old) who is helping to look after someone. This may be at home but could also be a person who lives away from the family home. Most are caring for a parent, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. It may also be the case that the young carer is looking after a family friend.

In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one person.

The person(s) they look after will have one or more of:

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young carer may have to deal with can range from:

- Nursing care - giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility etc.
- Personal intimate care - washing, dressing, feeding, and helping with toilet requirements.

- Emotional care - being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.
- Domestic care - doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc.
- Financial care - running the household, bill paying, benefit collection etc.
- Childcare - taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

Aims

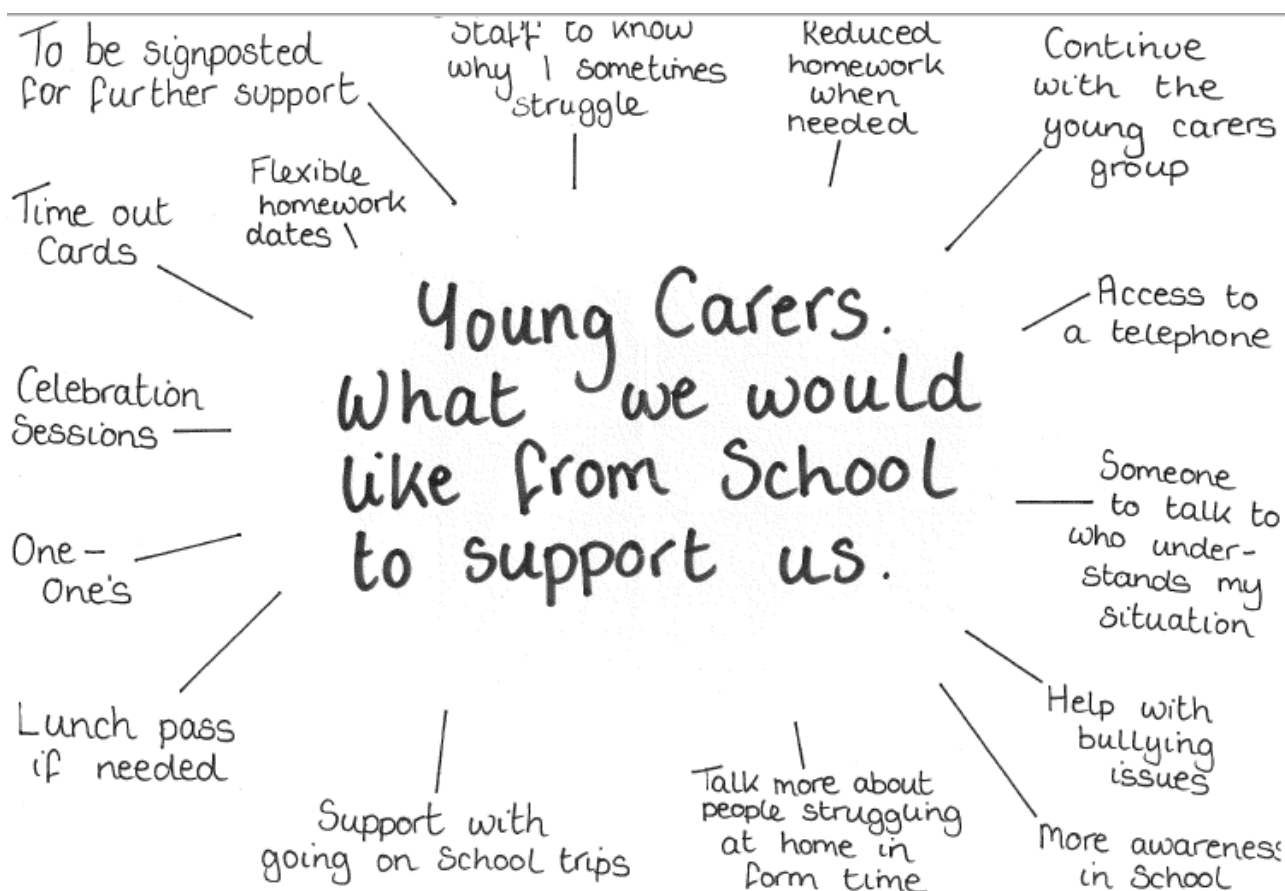
- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers.
- To raise awareness of young carers amongst staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the school.
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their school community.
- To encourage 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 in school.
- 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 their child is a young carer.
- To create a young carer register and profile, accessible by all relevant members of the Progress Teams and teaching staff.
- To appoint a member of the Governing Body who will be responsible for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to young carers – **Mr P Simpson**
- To appoint a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision – **Mr R Thornalley**
- To appoint a member of staff to lead on young carer provision who will be responsible for maintaining a young carer support group – **Miss R Hickson**

- To offer a Young Carers Assessment to all young carer families.
- 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 ensure that young carers have access to the mental health support available in school where necessary.
- To offer young carers extra-curricular opportunities for relaxation, leisure and social connection for young carers.
- To ensure that young carers can contribute to the discussion around the school provision for young carers
- To maintain and regularly review our young carer's policy. This will be reviewed annually.
- To ensure the lead professional for young carers will liaise with relevant colleagues and other relevant agencies regarding their caring responsibilities, with the consent of the young carer and their family.
- To ensure young carers receive access to HAF (holiday and food funding) where appropriate.
- 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 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.
- 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
 - 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.



Further information and support can be obtained from contacting the Young Carer Lead:

Rachael Hickson Via the school office or by email

r.hickson@jstc.org.uk

POLICY DOCUMENTS

The following policy document was presented to the Governing Body of John Spendluffe Technology College and approved and adopted by them on the date stated.

Policy: Young Carers Policy

Ratified on behalf of JTSC Young Carers by: Emily Arnott – Young Carer Champion

Date: February 2025