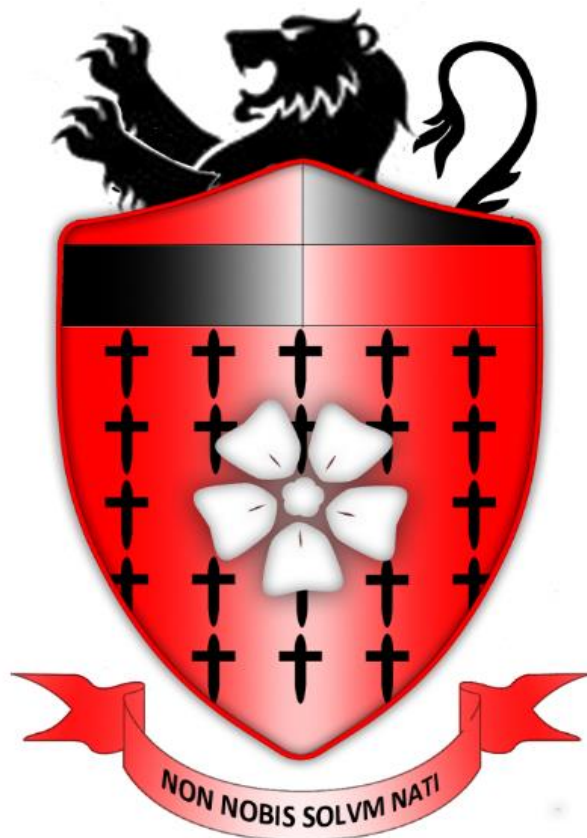


Hornsea School & Language College



Young Carers Education Policy

Created by:	Kay Sullivan	
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Young Carers Education Policy

Introduction

At Hornsea School and Language College, 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 a substance misuse problem, he or she may need a little extra support to help him or her get the most out of school.

While most children and young people help parents to some degree, some may be taking on caring responsibilities that are inappropriate for a child and that could have a negative impact on their own wellbeing. This Young Carer's Policy outlines how we will help pupils who may contribute to the care or have their lives impacted by someone at home who may require a level of care.

Definition of a Young Carer

Young carers are children and young persons under 18 who provide, or intend to provide, care, assistance or support to another family member. They carry out, often on a regular basis, significant or substantial caring task and assume a level of responsibility, which would usually be associated with an adult. The person receiving care is often a parent but can be a sibling, grandparent or other relative who is disabled, has some chronic illness, mental health problem or other condition connected with a need for care, support or supervision.

Identifying a Young Carer

Young carers are not always easy to spot and many actively try to conceal their caring role from teachers, pastoral staff and peers for fear of bullying or outside interference in their family's life. All of the warning signs below could be indicators of another problem. However, staff noticing these signs should consider asking the pupil if they are helping to look after someone at home.

- Regular or increased lateness or absence.
- Concentration problems, anxiety, tiredness.
- Under-achievement and late or incomplete homework: may be a sudden unexplained drop in attainment.
- Few or no peer friendships; conversely the pupil may get on well with adults and present as very mature for their age.
- Victim of bullying, sometimes explicitly linked to a family member's disability, health or need for care.
- Behavioural problems, sometimes the result of anger or frustration expressed inappropriately.
- Unable to attend extra-curricular activities.
- Difficulties in engaging parents; parents not attending parents' evenings.

Support available at HSLC to Young Carers and their families

When assessing the support required by a young carer, it is important to take into account the needs of the whole family and how these needs impact on one another. Most children affected by family disability, health problems or substance misuse do not become young carers and it is important to be wary of making assumptions about people with disabilities or other health issues and labelling young people or their parents. Support for young carers and their families should always aim to strengthen families and support parenting. There is also a need to be sensitive to cultural perceptions and needs around disability, illness and caring whilst recognising a child's fundamental rights to a safe and secure childhood.

HSLC acknowledges that Young Carers may need extra support to ensure that they have equal access to education and intends to support identified young carers in the following way:-

- A member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help to ensure that school are continuing to offer full support towards targeted needs and improved outcomes.
- Weekly 'Drop in' with Young Carers lead in school (Kay Sullivan).
- Can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service through the Childrens Participation and Rights Team. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties, ensuring they are able to access school events such as Parent's Evenings.
- Respects your right to privacy and will only share information about you and your family with people who need to know to help you.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. detention, sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role
- Allows young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Opportunities for Young Carers to access extra tuition sessions

Useful contacts:

Kay Sullivan	Staff member with responsibility for young carers 01964 530261/07775 422235 sullivank@hslc.co.uk
Janet Gravel	Lead: Young Carers – Children's Participation and Rights Team (01482) 887700