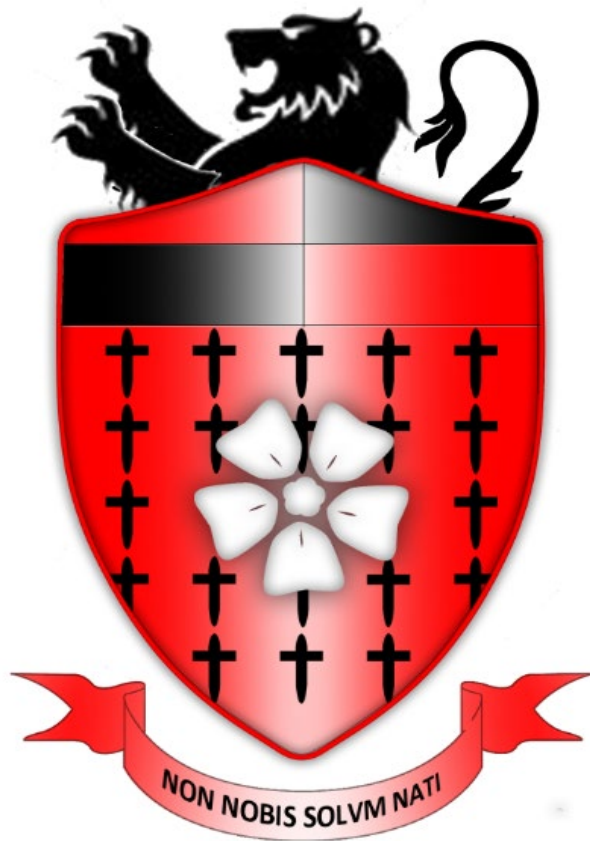


Hornsea School & Language College



Young Carer Policy

Last Reviewed:	Date: November 2025	By: Kay Sullivan
Approved by:	Headteacher: 26.11.25	Governing Body: 26.11.25
Date of Next Review:	November 2026	

Young Carer Policy

1. Policy Statement

At HSLC, we are committed to identifying and supporting young carers to ensure they can achieve their full potential in education and life. We recognize the significant responsibilities some students have at home and aim to provide a safe, supportive environment where young carers are acknowledged, respected, and supported.

2. 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.

3. Aims of the Policy

- To identify young carers at the earliest opportunity.
- To reduce the impact of caring responsibilities on young carers' education and well-being.
- To ensure young carers feel supported and have access to appropriate services.
- To work in partnership with families and external agencies.

4. Identification of Young Carers

Young carers may be identified through self-disclosure or peer referrals, staff observations or information from parents, carers, or external agencies as well as information shared at transition. However, 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 peer unpleasantness, 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.
- Difficulties in engaging parents; parents not attending parents' evenings.
- Unable to attend extra-curricular activities.

5. Support for Young Carers

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 families. 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:-

- Lead worker in school with specialist training who will advocate for the child to ensure any barriers to education are identified and fully supported
- Signposting to the local Young Carers Service through the Children's Participation and Rights Team. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- Ensuring school is accessible to parents/carers 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
- Support for young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes
- Access to emotional support.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Young Carers Lead

- Named staff member: Emma Webster
- Oversees the implementation of the policy.
- Acts as a point of contact for students, staff, and families.
- Coordinates referrals to support services and liaises with external agencies.

All Staff

- Be aware of the signs that a student may be a young carer.
- Listen and respond appropriately to concerns.
- Refer concerns to the Designated Young Carers Lead.

7. Staff Training

HSLC are working in partnership with the Young Carers Service through the Children's Participation and Rights Team towards opportunities for staff training and raise awareness of the challenges for young carers

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Designated Young Carers Lead and Senior Leadership Team. We will gather feedback from young carers and staff to inform improvements.