

YOUNG CARER POLICY

This policy was approved by the Local Advisory Board on:	March 2026
The policy owner is:	Acle Academy
This policy will be reviewed by the Local Advisory Board in: (unless earlier review is recommended by the Trust)	March 2028
Policy Version/date:	March 2026
Signed by the Chair of the Local Advisory Board:	Matthew Arrowsmith-Brown

Young Carers Policy for Acle Academy

At Acle Academy we are committed to ensuring that all students get the support they need to have a positive school experience, and develop into well-rounded young people and members of our community.

We know that for some students, factors outside of school can have a huge impact on this, particularly if they have a family member or friend who is ill, disabled, has a mental health condition or an addiction.

We are dedicated to promoting whole school awareness and understanding of Young Carers and the challenges they might face, and we demonstrate this through the following actions:

- A yearly commitment to staff training regarding Young Carers.
- A yearly commitment to raising awareness of Young Carers to students through assemblies, form-time activities, or within Character & Culture lessons.
- A regular commitment to seeking the views of Young Carers regarding the school's Young Carer provision.
- A yearly commitment to reviewing this policy.

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this Young Carers Policy is to ensure that young carers at Acle Academy are identified, supported, and empowered to thrive in their educational environment. This policy adheres to the latest UK government legislation, including the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014, and aims to create a supportive framework for young carers within our school community.

Definition of a Young Carer

A Young Carer is a pupil under the age of 18 who provides care, assistance, or support to a family member who has a physical or mental illness, disability, or addiction. This may include tasks such as personal care, household chores, and emotional support.

Roles and Responsibilities

School Leaders

- Ensure that the Young Carers Policy is implemented effectively across the school.

- Provide training for staff to recognise and support Young Carers.
- Monitor the progress and wellbeing of identified Young Carers.
- Senior Leadership Team member responsible for Young Carers: **Lisa Frary - Assistant Principal (Inclusion)**

Staff

- Identify pupils who may be Young Carers and refer them to the designated lead.
- Create an inclusive environment that acknowledges the unique challenges faced by Young Carers.
- Adapt teaching methods and provide additional support to ensure Young Carers can achieve their potential.

Designated Lead for Young Carers

- Act as the main point of contact for Young Carers and their families.
- Maintain accurate records of identified Young Carers and their needs.
- Coordinate support services and liaise with external agencies as necessary.
- Designated Lead for Young Carers: **Corinne Pointer (TA - Wellbeing and Mental Health)**

Parents and Carers

- Inform the school if their child is a Young Carer or if they have any concerns regarding their child's wellbeing.
- Engage with the school to support their child's education and emotional needs.

Wider School Community

- Raise awareness about Young Carers and promote understanding within the community.
- Collaborate with local organisations to provide resources and support for Young

Implementation Strategies

Identification and Support

- Include an option on enrolment forms for parents and carers to identify their child as a Young Carer.
- Provide information to students following Young Carers assemblies/form-time activities, so they are aware of who the Designated Lead for Young Carers is in school, and how to contact them.
- Develop support plans for identified Young Carers, detailing their specific needs and how the school will support them.
- Provide access to counselling and mentoring services for Young Carers.

- Invite Young Carers to share their experiences and views in shaping policy and action in school.
- Monthly Young Carers meeting with the YC Lead to encourage the sharing of views and any concerns about school.

Training and Awareness

- Implement at least yearly training sessions for all staff to recognise the signs of Young Carers and understand their unique challenges.
- Yearly assemblies/form-time activities for pupils to raise awareness about Young Carers and promote empathy and support among peers.

Communication

- Establish clear lines of communication between the school, Young Carers, and their families.
- Provide regular updates to parents and carers about the support available for Young Carers through newsletters and leaflets.
- Yearly whole school assemblies linked to Young Carers Day (around March) and PSHE lessons for all children.

Review Mechanisms

- The Young Carers Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant and effective.
- Feedback from Young Carers, their families, and staff will be gathered to inform the review process.
- The designated lead will report on the effectiveness of the policy and suggest any necessary amendments.

Acle Academy is committed to supporting our Young Carers, ensuring they have the necessary resources and understanding to thrive both academically and personally. This policy will be communicated to all stakeholders and incorporated into our school culture.