

Bedford High School

A Specialist Business and Enterprise College

To Care To Learn To Achieve



Young Carers Policy

School Address	Manchester Road Leigh WN7 2LU
School Contact Number	01942 909009

Document control

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Current author	Rebecca Ramsden
Governing Committee	
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Signature of the Chair of the Governing Body	

Changes History

Version	Date	Description	Changes
1	July 2022	New Policy	
2	July 2023	Updates to contacts	
3	June 2024	Changes to contacts	

Young Carers Policy

Bedford High School recognise that young carers are not a homogeneous group and the caring role will be different dependent on the parent's or sibling's additional need. Regardless of the caring role they take on, we recognise that young carers face additional challenges at home and at school.

We are committed to supporting young carers in accessing their education as reflected in the national inclusion strategies. This policy aims to ensure that young carers are identified as early as possible and offered appropriate support and guidance to access the education to which they are entitled.

1. Key Contacts

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
Head teacher	Paul McCaffery	01942 909009	P.McCaffery@bedford.wigan.sch.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Rebecca Ramsden		r.ramsden@bedford.wigan.sch.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	B.Moss P.McCaffery C.Green R.Lowe		
Pastoral Guidance Officers	D.Marshall M.Marsh M.Smith C.Smith L.Mayers		
Attendance & Safeguarding Officer (DDSL)	N.Quinn	01942 909009	
Nominated Governor	J Coop	N/A	
Agency Contact Details			
Children's Social Care referrals	Duty Team	01942 828300	https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Health-Social-Care/Children-and-young-people/ProfessionalReferralForm.aspx
School Nursing	Gillian Hamlet	01942 483558	gillian.hamlet2@nhs.net
Wigan and Leigh Young Carers		01942 697885	www.wlcccarers.com

2. Definition

We have adopted the most recent definition from the Children and Families Act 2014, which also includes sibling carers.

A Young Carer is defined as:

“...a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person... this relates to care for any family member who is physically or mentally ill, frail elderly, disabled or misuses alcohol or substances.”

The person(s) that a young carer looks after, may have one or more of the following:

- A physical disability including sensory disability
- Learning disability
- Mental health difficulties
- Chronic or terminal illness
- Substance misuse issue

NB: It must be noted; the above list is not exhaustive.

A young carer may take on additional responsibilities that are extra to those appropriate for their age and ability. They may include:

- Personal care such as washing, toileting, dressing, feeding, help with mobility, administering medication and ensuring safety
- Domestic help such as cooking, cleaning, laundry, paying bills and child care
- Emotional support

3. Aim

We acknowledge there will be a number of young carers who attend Bedford High School, and their care and welfare are of paramount importance to us. We aim to:

- Educate students and families as to what is meant by the term ‘young carer’ and what support is available
- Encourage young carers and their families to accept the support available to them
- Reduce stigma and ensure that everyone promotes a culture of openness around those who care for others
- Ensure that staff are aware that every child is a potential young carer and have this in mind when supporting students
- Reduce the number of times that a student has to tell their story

4. Educational Impact

Due to the above responsibilities at home, a young carer may experience:

- Absenteeism / Punctuality issues
- Concentration difficulties and/or tiredness
- Mental health and wellbeing concerns or anxieties
- Lack of time / space for homework completion
- Poor attainment and progress
- Friendship difficulties
- Behavioural difficulties
- Lack of time for extracurricular activities
- Financial difficulties, impacting on educational visits / enrichment

It may be also difficult to engage parents due to their own difficulties or due to a fear of involvement with external agencies.

5. Support Offered

Assessment

Under the Children and Families Act 2014, an actual or potential young carer has the right to an assessment of need.

A young carer's assessment takes a holistic approach and will consider strengths as well as need. An assessment may result in signposting or referral to other support services that we think could benefit the whole family. If a student is identified as a potential young carer, the school will offer additional support, and will encourage the family to consent to the completion of a referral to Wigan and Leigh Young Carers Centre.

Following consent being gained, the student's PGO will complete the referral form (Appendix 1) and submit it in a timely manner to info@wlcccarers.com or via post to: Young Carers Project Manager, Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre, 3-5 Frederick Street, Hindley, Wigan, WN2 3BD.

Upon receipt of the referral, Wigan and Leigh Young Carers will send an acknowledgement letter to the family, with additional information and will arrange a home visit and a young carer's assessment as appropriate.

The designated point-of-contact for each student who is a young carer is their Pastoral Guidance Officer (PGO), who acts as a link between home, staff and other external agencies. We appreciate that young carers may not wish to discuss their situation at home, but we aim to foster openness and a willingness when appraised of any information given. We treat young carers in a caring and compassionate manner at all times, and in a child-centred way, and fully acknowledge the important role they fulfil at home.

We offer the following as a means of support:

- Access to their PGO, Pastoral Manager and Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Access to an Early Help if required
- Support with crisis management / emergency planning (for example who will care for them if their single parent goes into hospital)
- Extracurricular activities, including homework support
- Regular home contact
- Negotiable start/end times to the school day, when appropriate
- Lunchtime provision for sanctions if required
- Access to a telephone if contact with home is needed
- Regular meetings to check on progress and home situations
- Additional welfare / nurture / mental health support if appropriate

At all times the needs of the student are taken into consideration and, in consultation with all appropriate professionals, action planning will be regular and effective.

The linked outside agency is Wigan Young Carers and they can be contacted via the PGO.

6. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis

Appendix 1: Wigan and Leigh Young Carers Referral Form

**YOUNG CARERS TEAM
WIGAN AND LEIGH CARERS CENTRE
REFERRAL FORM 2021**



1) The Young Person							
Name	Age	D.O.B	School Yr	Gender	Ethnicity		
Parent / Guardian Contact Name							
Address:		Parent / Guardian's Contacts					
		Home Tel					
		Mobile					
		Email					
Best way contact?							
Cared for person (please circle or state)	Mum	Dad	Sibling	Other (please specify):			
School / College / Employer (if applicable)							
Are school / college aware of caring situation at home?							
School contact person							
Consent to contact school		Yes			No		
Has the young person missed school or been late because of their caring role?							
Has an Early Help, or CiN, or similar been completed (or in progress) for the Young Person?							
Are any other agencies involved?							
2) Other Household Members							
Name	D.O.B.	Relationship	Medical Conditions				
3) Reason(s) for caring (please tick)							
Sensory Disability	Learning Disability	Physical Disability	Long-term Illness	Drugs / Alcohol Misuse	Mental Health Conditions	Older person	Other (give details below)

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Additional and/or significant information about the condition of the cared for:

4) Caring Role

What does the young person do to help the person they care for? (continue on additional sheet if necessary)

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How does the caring role affect the young person? (continue on additional sheet if necessary)

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5) Referrer details

Name		Job Title/Role	
Agency		Telephone Number	
Email			
Address			
Date of Referral		Date of referrers assessment	
Feedback on Assessment required	Yes		

Consent: Please note that your data will be held securely by Wigan & Leigh Carers Centre.

Signature of Child/Young Person (if appropriate)		Date
Signature of Parent/Guardian		Date
Signature of Referrer		Date