

eotas|swindon
better choices for **better** lives

63. Young Carers Policy

Date adopted: April 2024

Next review: April 2025

See EOTAS policy control document (held by the Business Manager) for status, notes and actions pertaining to this policy



Young Carers Policy

Version	Status	Date	Title of Reviewer	Purpose/Outcome
1.0	Adopted	April 2024	IEB	Adoption of Young Carers Policy



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Scope of the policy

We believe all young people have a right to an education, regardless of their situation at home. When a young person has a caring responsibility they may need extra support to help them get the most out of school.

Definition

- A young carer is a child or young person under 18 who helps look after someone in their family who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol¹.
- A young carer may undertake some or all of the following:
 - **Practical tasks**, for example, cooking, housework, shopping.
 - **Physical care**, for example, lifting, helping up the stairs, physiotherapy.
 - **Personal care**, for example, dressing, washing, toileting needs.
 - **Emotional support**, for example, listening, calming, being present.
 - **Household management**, for example, paying bills, managing finances, collecting benefits.
 - **Looking after siblings**, for example, putting to bed, walking to school, and parenting.
 - **Interpretation**, for example, for hearing/speech impairment or English as an additional language.
 - **Administering medication**, for example, insulin needles, and preparing daily tablets.

Support for carers and their families

EOTAS has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers.

We:

- Can put young carers in touch with Swindon Carers Centre [Young Carers - Swindon Carers Centre](#). We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- Will provide accessible information to parents with mobility or communication difficulties
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend extra-curricular activities, due to their caring role.
- Will facilitate young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes using school phones.
- Will not make assumptions about family members with disabilities, mental and physical health conditions or substance misuse issue, or label young people and their families.
- Will respect the young person's right to privacy and only share information on them and their family with people who need to know. Their home situation and caring role will not be discussed in front of peers.

To meet these support needs EOTAS will:

- Keep up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families and provide training on young carer issues for staff.

¹ Legislation into Practice: Making the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 a Reality for Young Carers

- Ensure that young carers know how to access support.
- Ensure that information about support available for young carers and how to access it is clearly available to both pupils and families.
- Use the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of, and respect for, issues such as caring, disability and impairment via our Personal Development Curriculum (PDC) and SWEET BTEC.
- Ensure that its premises are accessible and welcoming to parents with disabilities and/or illness, offering additional support to enable them to attend parent meetings or other school events. Home visits are considered where appropriate.
- Offer additional support to remove any communication barriers with parents, so that parents can be fully engaged with the education of their child.

During the school enrolment process for new pupils, EOTAS will:

- Identify parents or family members who have disabilities or another long-term physical or mental health conditions.
- Identify if the pupil has caring responsibilities and if this means this young carer has any additional needs that need to be supported.
- Establish individual plans to recognise the child's / young person's specific needs as a young carer, as required.
- Refer / signpost young carers and their families to other support agencies and professionals as appropriate.

Privacy

- A young carer's privacy is respected and information about them or their caring role is not communicated in front of their peers.
- A family's privacy is protected and the school only shares information with professionals on a need-to-know basis to support pupils and their families.

Transition

- EOTAS offers support to the pupil and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school/college lead for young carers and their families.
- The school will identify young carers at risk of falling into the NEET category and take appropriate actions to address this.

