SHOREHAM ACADEMY

Young Carers' Policy

Updated: September 2026

Next Review: September 2027

Young Carers' Policy

Shoreham Academy is committed to supporting young carers to access all areas of education as reflected in the national inclusion strategies. This policy aims to ensure that young carers are identified and offered appropriate support, in order to help them access education.

1. Definition

A young carer is someone under 18 years of age who is helping to care for someone at home. They may be looking after a parent, grandparent, sibling or other relative. The person they look after may have one or more of the following:

* A physical disability including sensory disability
* Learning disability
* Mental health issues
* Chronic or terminal illness
* Substance misuse problem
* Be elderly and frail

A young carer may need to take on responsibilities in addition to those appropriate for their age and ability.

These extra responsibilities may include:

- Personal Care – administering medication, changing, dressing or assisting with mobility
- Intimate Care – washing, dressing and assisting with toileting requirements
- Emotional Support – helping to meet the emotional needs of the person, hearing adult problems
- Household Chores – these may include washing, cooking and cleaning – in some cases for the whole family – shopping and the payment of bills and dealing with finances
- Childcare – helping to look after younger siblings, including taking them to school • Translation/Interpreting

We acknowledge that there will be young carers among our students, and that their own care and welfare must be of paramount importance.

2. Educational Effects:

Shoreham Academy acknowledges how a young carer's extra responsibilities can impact on their education and emotional and physical well-being. It is possible that due to this they may:

- Arrive late in school
- Have erratic attendance

- Not complete homework on time or at all
- Underachieve academically
- May not be able to attend after school clubs or detentions
- Suffer emotional distress
- Be consistently tired
- May experience a lack of concentration in lesson
- Experience bullying
- Display behavioural issues
- Have low self esteem
- Have difficulty socialising with peers

It may also be difficult to engage parents due to their health issues.

3. Support Available to Young Carers

Shoreham Academy acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to enable them to have equal access to education. This policy reflects Shoreham Academy's commitment to supporting young carers' needs and also to the message that a young carers' education is important.

At Shoreham Academy, all our Pastoral Managers work to support our young carers by liaising with other staff on the students' behalf. Pastoral Managers provide opportunities for students to speak in private and away from peers, should they wish. Miss Jordan Coulson acts as the Young Carers' Coordinator. Students can find Miss Coulson in Inclusion and Learning Support Office top floor gold corridor. The right to pupils' and families' privacy will be respected and the school will only share information with professionals and agencies on a 'need to know' basis in order to support pupils and families. Mrs Suzi Butler (Senior Assistant Principal) has overall responsibility for Young Carers within Shoreham Academy. The academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Lydia Shelley, Vice Principal.

At all times young carers will be treated in a sensitive and caring way, and confidentiality will be upheld.

Shoreham Academy recognises that a young carer may not feel comfortable to discuss their caring role; this will be acknowledged and respected.

Young Carers at Shoreham Academy who are carrying out a medium to high level caring role will be offered a referral to **West Sussex Young Carers Family Service if they meet the criteria and in agreement with the parent/guardian** This will be through the designated member of staff.

Shoreham Academy will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carers at risk of any significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

Shoreham Academy will offer support to the young person and their family highlighted during the transition process.

Shoreham Academy will allow young carers to use the telephone to call home during break and lunchtimes, to reduce any worry they may have about a family member.

Shoreham Academy will provide a display board for young carers, providing up to date information. Shoreham Academy acknowledges that extra support for young carers may be needed to enable them to access all areas of school curriculum. This includes flexibility in responding to their needs:

- A young carer's permissions: this will allow a young carer to have access to a phone in school at break times and lunch times to phone home and can be shown to staff in times of crisis to excuse them from a lesson to see a member of the pastoral team this will be available for all staff to be aware of as pinned on their profile
- Young carers will also show the card to explain lateness. **However, no more than two late arrivals a week will be accepted without contact with the parent/guardian**
- Flexibility with homework deadlines
- Lunchtime detentions rather than after school detentions, where possible
- Access to work via Firefly - when there is a crisis at home. This will still allow them to access education at home. Absences for young carers will however be time limited
- Provision for alternative communication with parents who are unable to attend target setting days and parent evenings

4. Staff Awareness and Training

Shoreham Academy is committed to ensuring staff are able to give the correct support and information to young carers. We do this through:

- Yearly staff training in the beginning of the year regarding how to identify and support young carers, with a regular review point in the middle as well
- Yearly assembly about what a young carer is, what support Shoreham Academy can give and who they can talk to about their current situation and concerns
- Young carers at Shoreham Academy have a yearly review with their pastoral manager or Miss Coulson to ensure correct support is in place, as well as review their current situation
- Review this policy yearly to ensure Shoreham Academy is up to date with the most current support strategies and ensuring all young carers in our school are identified and supported correctly

Please contact Jordan Coulson, the Designated Young Carer Coordinator for further information.



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Jordan Coulson, CWCF Coordinator and YC Champion

Jordan Coulson



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Senior Assistant Principal and SLT YC lead

Suzi Butler