

INTERNAL PROCEDURE

Title: Young Carers Statement of Commitment

POLICY HOLDER: Library & Wellbeing Team Leader
SMT OWNER: Assistant Principal Student Services
VERSION NO: 7
IN REVIEW : May 2024

Accessibility: If you would like this information in an alternative format, e.g. Easy to Read, large print, Braille or audio tape, or if you would like the procedure explained to you in your language, please contact the College's marketing team on 01603 773 169.

Further information: If you have any queries about this policy or procedure, please contact the named policy holder.



Statement

“Some young children, often from an early age, take on regular or ongoing care and support for another family member (usually a parent or sibling) with a physical or mental illness, a disability, or who is struggling with substance misuse.” - Spurgeons

Our College is committed to supporting students to aspire and achieve their educational potential. Everything we do is to enhance our student's experience, therefore students, their wellbeing and how they access their learning is of paramount importance. We seek to provide a safe and supportive environment where the welfare and emotional health of students is valued, promoted and safeguarded so that they can learn and progress in a supportive and secure environment.

Young carers have often taken on a degree of caring responsibility that would normally only be asked of an adult. Therefore it is not only possible but also quite likely that this can have a detrimental impact on their mental health, childhood experience, ability to engage in their education or cause them to miss out on opportunities afforded to other non-caring young people such as leisure activities.

How we provide support

Through this Statement of Commitment we are recognising that our students who are classed as young carers may need additional support at times.

This means that we will always work to:

- Support early self-identification and involvement from young carers at application and enrolment stage to plan support
- Befriend and Assist young carers to access support available to them such as:
 - Counselling
 - Financial Advice
 - Wellbeing / Safeguarding support
 - Careers and course advice
 - Specific and individual Advice
 - Sign posting and liaison with external support agencies
- Targeted support focusing on progression and careers including UCAS,
- Ensure that our students' experiences and their voice are at the heart of what we do,
- Support students to remain healthy,
- Provide a single point of contact at the College for the student and the team around them.

Sharing information

We recognise that we will sometimes need to share information about you with others in order to make sure that we can get the right support in place for you. For example, we may share information about you with colleagues in the College, your Social Worker or other named Carer and within the Corporate Parenting Team at Norfolk County Council (or other local authority with parental responsibility for you). In these cases the information we share will be about your attendance or other issues related to your learning. In all cases we will speak to you before sharing your information to check that you are happy for us to do so. If you do not give your consent, we will not share information about your Looked After or In Care status.