



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
OXFORDSHIRE
ACADEMY TRUST



Aylesbury
UTC

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

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**AUTC Local
Governing Body**

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1. Statement of Intent

Aylesbury UTC acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, the UTC is giving the message that young carers' education is important.

2. Aim

- To improve the progress and raise the standard of achievement for young carers.
- To address any underlying inequalities between young carers and other students.
- To raise awareness of young carers among staff and to ensure the identification of all young carers as early as possible on entry to the UTC.
- To ensure that young carers feel as included and supported within their UTC community as possible.
- To foster respect and understanding towards young carers among all students.
- To ensure that young carers take as full a part as possible in all UTC activities.
- To ensure that young carers are involved in discussions and decisions affecting young carer provision.
- To ensure that young carers have access to appropriate careers guidance and opportunities.

3. Strategies

Strategies may include:

- A space on UTC application forms for parents to declare:
 - Whether or not their child is a young carer.
 - Whether or not their child is registered as a young carer.
- Working with Young Carer charities to ensure that all relevant UTC staff receive training around how to identify and support young carers.
- Creating a young carer register accessible to all relevant members of the pastoral team and teaching staff.
- Appointing a member of the Governing Body who will be responsible for ensuring that provision of a high standard is offered to young carers.
- Appointing a young carer lead in the Senior Leadership Team who will be responsible for overseeing young carer provision.
- Appointing a member of staff to lead on young carer provision who will be responsible for maintaining a young carer support group and corresponding with external agencies where appropriate to stay up to date on a young carer's circumstances and needs.
- Ensuring young carers have access to the mental health support available across the UTC where necessary.

- Supporting – if appropriate – with communication around homework, deadlines, and attendance.
- Maintaining and regularly reviewing our young carers' policy. This will be reviewed annually.

4. Additional Information

- The UTC will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and staff will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- The UTC appreciates that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- The UTC will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way.
- The UTC will ensure young carers can access all available support services in UTC.
- The UTC will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

5. Legislation and Guidance

The Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 significantly strengthened the rights for young carers. They aim to assess and support children and young people from taking on excessive or inappropriate care.

The UTC will follow the guidelines and best practices as outlined by The Children's Society and other relevant organisations.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Making provision for inclusive policies and practices that support young carers and promote good communication with their families.

The Principal is responsible for:

- Appointing a young carer lead.
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of and adhere to this policy.
- Ensuring that the UTC environment is inclusive and accommodating for young carers.

The young carer lead is responsible for:

- Ensuring that young carers have the same access to a full education and career choices as their peers.
- Promoting and coordinating the support young carers need.
- Liaising with other agencies as appropriate.

The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) is responsible for:

- Managing any safeguarding-related concerns in relation to young carers and ensuring they are supported.

7. Definition

A young carer is someone under 18 years of age who provides regular and ongoing care to a family member who, due to a condition, illness, disability, serious injury, mental health condition or addiction, are reliant upon them for support

Young carers may undertake practical tasks, physical care, personal and intimate care, emotional support, household management, and more.

8. Identifying Young Carers

During the UTC enrolment process for new students, the UTC will identify parents or family members who have disabilities or other long-term physical or mental health conditions, clarify whether the student has caring responsibilities, and establish individual student plans to recognize the child's specific needs as a young carer.

9. Educational Issues Faced by Young Carers

Caring responsibilities can impact young people's education in various ways, including lateness and non-attendance, late or no submission of homework, not participating in extracurricular activities, experiencing bullying or isolation, underachieving academically, and poor education or career choices. The UTC will offer accommodations to help young carers get the most out of their education.

10. Behaviour

The UTC will be aware that young carers may exhibit challenging behaviour in environments away from home. Instances of poor behaviour by young carers will be dealt with in line with the Behaviour Policy, considering ongoing pastoral support where appropriate.

11. Safeguarding

Young carers may be more vulnerable to safeguarding concerns than other students. The UTC will identify young carers who may be in need of early help and follow the early help processes outlined within the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

12. Staff Awareness

Staff members will receive training and ongoing professional development about the issues faced by young carers. The curriculum, primarily PSHE lessons, will be used to promote understanding and respect for the work of young carers.

13. Providing Support to Families

The UTC will offer support to the student and their family during the transition process between phases, share agreed information with their new UTC, college or university where appropriate, and promote additional links with adult care agencies.

14. Monitoring and Review

The Principal and the young carer lead will continually monitor and review practice to ensure this policy is implemented correctly. This policy will be reviewed by the governing board on an annual basis.