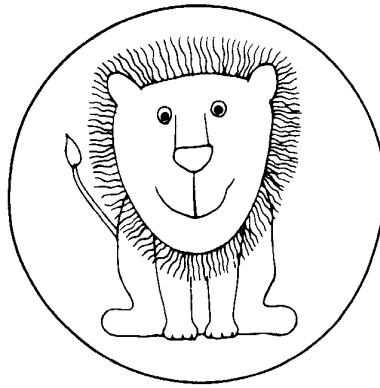




Linslade Lower School

Young Carers Policy

Governor Approval: November 2025

Review Cycle: Triennial

Policy review chronology:

November 2022	New policy	Approved
November 2025	2021 data used	Approved

Aim

Linslade Lower School is committed to supporting young carers to access and maintain their education, to which they are entitled to. This policy supports our commitment to ensure young carers at Linslade Lower School are identified, respected, listened to and fully supported.

Linslade Lower School will implement an agreed support package using Central Beds Council Young Carers Card scheme; allowing support to be offered discretely and sensitively and at all times ensuring confidentiality.

Definition

Young carers are children and young people under 19 who help look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem. Young carers may be caring for a parent, a sibling, grandparent or other relative or person close to the family. In some cases a young carer may be caring for more than one family member. Many young carers also help care for younger siblings. A young carer may be a primary carer or supporting another person with caring tasks. When identifying a young carer the main focus should be the **impact on the child**, rather than the hours spent type or level of caring tasks.

Caring Tasks

Caring can involve physical and/or emotional care, or taking responsibility for someone's safety or well being. Many young carers spend a lot of time doing household chores or looking after younger siblings in addition to helping a sick or disabled parent with tasks such as administering medication, helping someone get up and get dressed or helping someone to use the bathroom. Some young carers help parents to look after a disabled sibling.

Number of young carers in school/Possible impact on education

We have no definite figure on how many young carers there are in the UK although the 2021 Census recorded around 128,200 young carers (aged 5-17) in England and Wales. The real figure is believed to be many more than that. Home office figures from 2003 suggest that there are between 250,000 -350,000 children with parents who are problem drug users. Alcohol Concern suggests that there are 1.3 million children affected by a parental alcohol problem. On this basis we can presume every school will

have a significant number of young carers, many unknown to the school. There has been comparisons made that in a class of 30 children 3-4 children will be undertaking some caring duties.

Currently young carers spend an average of 4 years in their caring role prior to being identified.

Linslade Lower School acknowledges that there are likely to be a significant number of young carers in school and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education.

Due to responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Poor concentration, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment or drop in attainment expected
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting or pushing a wheelchair
- False signs of maturity, due to assuming an adult role
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills or not age appropriate
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

It might also be difficult to engage with parents (due to fears about a child being taken into care, fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called into question). They may be unable to attend parents' evenings.

In addition young carers may be reluctant to share their own experiences.

Linslade Lower School will train and support school staff to make them aware and sensitive to the issues faced by young carers and their families. The school will develop a culture where the school and pupils celebrate the positive contribution young carers make to their families and communities and the schools success in supporting young carers in school allowing them to fully participate in all aspects of their learning, personal development and school experience.

Support Offered

Linslade Lower School acknowledges that young carers may need additional support to access and maintain the education to which they are entitled. Through this policy, Linslade Lower School is giving the message that young carers' education is important and will support young carers' in making the most of their educational opportunity and to enjoy the same experiences as their peers without caring responsibilities. The school will encourage, support and monitor young carers progress as agreed in their personal education plan.

Young Carers Card

Central Beds Council has a young carer's card developed in partnership with young carers, their families, Central Beds Council Young Carers Service and other appropriate agencies.

Use of this card will indicate agreed allowances to support a pupil in school who also has a caring role that impacts on his or her education. Use of this card will negate constant explanations of why concessions or support are required and maintain confidentiality. Linslade Lower School recognises the benefit of a Young Carers Card and will agree in partnership with pupil (young carer) and parent/s an agreed support package in school.

The designated link teacher for young carers is Hazel Farlam, who will liaise with relevant colleagues, Central Beds Council Young Carers Service and other relevant agencies with the consent of the young carer and their family.

Linslade Lower School will provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private, and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.

Linslade Lower School 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.

Linslade Lower School will treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.

Linslade Lower School will ensure young carers can access all available support services in school and will inform young carers of the specialist support available to them from Central Beds Council Young Carers Service. The school will refer a prospective young carer to Central Beds Council Young Carers Service with the consent of the young person and parent/s.

Linslade Lower School will follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to an inappropriate caring role.

Linslade Lower School will promote discussion and learning in all areas of curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance and respect for the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.

Linslade Lower School recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not restricted to):

- Someone to talk to who understands, will listen and not judge (Nominated staff member)
- Negotiated deadlines for homework (when needed)
- Arrangements for schoolwork to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis). Any approved absence for a young carer will be time limited
- Access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school
- Agreed Personal Education Plan – to set targets and discuss aspirations and improve education outcomes for young carers
- School to collate statistics to measure success and identify areas needing improvement. Report to the School Governing Body.

For further information please contact Central Beds Council Young Carers Service on 01302 736099 or young.carers@CentralBedsCouncil.gov.uk

Please follow the link for the Schools Toolkit to find out more information about how you can support young carers and further support from the Young Carers Service.

[https://dmbcwebstolive01.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/ChildrenYoungPeopleFamilies/Documents/DES-345-Schools-Toolkit-v01%20\(002\).pdf](https://dmbcwebstolive01.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/ChildrenYoungPeopleFamilies/Documents/DES-345-Schools-Toolkit-v01%20(002).pdf)

Legislation and guidance

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles 28 and 29. Children and young people have the right to the best available education and to opportunities to develop their personality, mental and physical ability to their fullest potential.

The Children Act 1989.

The Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families, which gives guidance on S. 17 of the Act, has a section on young carers which states that effective

support will require “good quality joint work between adult and children’s social services as well as co-operation from schools and health workers . . . Young carers can receive help from both local and health authorities.” See paragraphs 3.61-3.63.

Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995; Carers and Disabled Children Act 2001; Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004

Between them these Acts give young carers varying rights to an assessment of their needs, which must take into account their right to an education. See the SCIE practice guide to the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004:

<https://www.scie.org.uk/search?sq=Young+carers> commissioned by the Department of Health.

The Children’s Society Young Carer’s Initiative aims to develop Key Principles of Practice in supporting young carers and their families. Key Principle 4 states: *Young carers will have the same access to education and career choices as their peers:*

Standard: Schools and colleges take responsibility to identify young carers at an early stage and ensure that they have the same access to a full education and career choices as their peers.

Further information

- Central Beds Council Council
<https://www.CentralBedsCouncil.gov.uk/services/schools/young-carers>
- The Carer’s Trust
<https://carers.org/downloads/resources-pdfs/identification-practice-of-young-carers-in-england/identification-practice-of-young-carers-in-england-review-tips-and-tools.pdf>
- The Children’s Society have a range of materials including:
[young-carers-and-school.pdf](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/young-carers-and-school.pdf) ([childrenssociety.org.uk](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk))