
Our Whole School Commitment to Young Carers

At WSS we are committed to supporting young carers so that they can attend and enjoy school in the same way as other students and achieve their potential. We seek to hold open conversations with young carers and their families about their caring circumstances.

We offer a range of interventions including a weekly lunchtime drop-in where young carers can build friendships with others in a similar situation and receive support from staff, and an exploration programme to enhance a young person's understanding of their role. We are committed to making reasonable adjustments where necessary and making WSS a school that celebrates and supports young carers.

We have a staff member designated to identifying and supporting young carers specifically. Mrs Ward is our Young Carers Lead across the school.

We have a clear pathway for young carers to be referred to Southampton Young Carers and recognise that we are a vital link in the chain for young people getting the support they need, and families having their needs met through other services; any information is shared on a need to know basis only.

Training to raise awareness about young carers and equip our staff team look out for those who may need support in this area is part of our cyclical CPD programme. This captures senior leadership, teaching staff and support staff.

As a school we value the voice of our students and seek to include young carers in informing our vision and practice by having Young Carers Champions on our School Council. We recognise the importance of family input and are developing ways to explore this to shape and improve support.