

Young Carers and the Schools Census

Briefing sheet – September 2022

Who are young carers?

A young carer is someone under the age of 18 who looks after someone who has a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol addiction. As well as those caring for parents, they may also look after brothers, sisters or elderly relatives too. Research suggests that 10% of all children are providing high or very high levels of care. Locally it is estimated that there will be 1 or 2 young carers in every class.

Young carers and the school census

From Spring 2023, young carers are for the first time going to be included on the school census return. This will provide a much better picture of the number of young carers in Norfolk schools, but also presents opportunities to use this data to monitor attendance and attainment of young carers.

What are we asking schools to do?

To help ensure that every young carer in the county is identified at the earliest opportunity and linked into available support, local charity Caring Together and other young carer organisations have set a challenge that by the end of the 2022-23 Academic Year, every Norfolk school will:

1. Have a Young Carers Champion so that every young carer has a trusted adult in school they can go to if things are difficult or they need more support
2. Have a Young Carers agreement/policy (ideally designed with young carers) so that every young carer in Norfolk knows what support is available to them in their school and locally
3. Ensure young carers are correctly identified in their school pupil management systems, so they are picked up in the census return. Monitor indicators such as attendance and attainment using the young carer flag.

How can schools sign up to the challenge?

Schools should visit www.caringtogether.org/youngcarerchallenge

What support is available for schools?

Caring Together have produced a comms pack and accompanying resources around the school census and are running free support sessions for schools in the Autumn term.

Schools can visit www.caringtogether.org/youngcarerchallenge or e-mail carerfriendlytick@caringtogether.org for more information.