



Transition Guidance for Parents and Young Carers – 2022

March: New school allocated and support offer from Carers in Hertfordshire

You should now have been allocated a school for next year, if you haven't got an agreed place or need help with an appeal call us on 01992 586 969 to discuss how we can support you.

Email received from Carers in Hertfordshire with information. Have a read through the documents and contact us with any concerns or requests for support.

If you would like a printed copy, please call 01992 586 969 to request one.

Next Steps – Step 1 (April-June): Fill in Transition Plan and young carer voice

Start completing Transition Plan and young carer to think about what information they would like to share with new school (see Transition - Talking to school about your caring role).

This could include a written account such as a 'day in my life', a story, or short statements (written or typed out). A family photo is a useful way of introducing other members of the family at the meeting. Here are some ideas for headings/themes:

- The cared for person, their condition and how it affects them
- The caring role
- The good things about caring
- The not so good things about caring
- Your hobbies, interests, and aspirations
- How can the school support you?

You are welcome to complete this whenever you like, Carers in Hertfordshire will be running virtual sessions in April/May to support with this, please contact us for more information and to book on.

Step 2 (June): Request a meeting with new school

For 2022 new starters, this may be done by phone or video call

A meeting/call will help you understand what support the school offers to young carers and their families. Some schools will have specific support, but many do not. Request a meeting or call with the Head of Year and/or a member of staff in the Pastoral team. This will enable you to talk to your child's school in confidence about the situation at home and discuss what support they can offer. At this initial meeting we recommend that the young carer attends and gives their own account of the family circumstances and their caring role.

Step 3 (June/July): Meeting with new school (possibly by video/phone call)

As before, this could be with the Head of Year, Form Tutor or a member of the Pastoral team. A number of questions you may like to ask are on the next page.

School transfer day would normally take place at the beginning of July – your school will let you know their plans for this year.

Step 4 (October): Request a review meeting

Set a date with relevant member of staff to look at how things are going.



Common questions for schools

- Who should my child speak to if they are upset or need to talk?
- Who is the main contact for parents if the caring situation changes or there are any concerns?
- What do you do if a parent cannot attend the school for parent's evenings or other meetings and events?
- Does the school have a Young Carer Lead or Pastoral Lead? (someone specific who has overall responsibility for young carers)
- Have staff received training in supporting young carers? (this training is available from Carers in Hertfordshire)
- Is there a homework club? (if so, what support is given?)
- What do you do if we are unable to support our child with their education, i.e. for example homework tasks, access to a laptop/computer or the internet?
- Is there a Young Carers Group in the school?
- Does the school have a Young Carer Student Ambassador?
- What financial support is there for purchasing school uniform?
- What financial support is available for school trips, and who is the contact?
- If my child is unable to attend after school activities what alternatives do you offer?
- If my child is given a detention would you consider lunch time detentions, as staying late after school creates more problems for us as a family?

It is always a good idea to make note of any support that the school have offered and agreed to. This could be included in the 'Transition Plan' within this pack.



Common concerns/solutions

Organisation – trying to juggle different schools

- Make sure you know about how the young carer is getting to school – practice walking/cycling in the holidays if needed. If a bike is needed, Carers in Hertfordshire may be able to help with funding. Also, bus routes if safe to use.
- Pack bag the night before
- Make lunch the night before

Bullying

- Find out the school's policy and make sure child knows who to go to (people to talk to – Form Tutor, Head of Year, Pastoral team, Young Carers Lead etc.)
- See if there is a Buddy system in place with older students
- Also, check if you know any other students either already at the school or joining in the same year. This could be someone who can look out for them from the beginning

Other concerns

- Not wanting a young carer to be labelled in school – you can make it clear which staff members you would like to know, and they will be discreet
- Taking holidays during term-time because it fits the needs of the cared for family member – discretion is with the school on this one