

Press release: 4th June 2015



Hazelwood Academy Earns Young Carers Award

Hazelwood Academy has been awarded Standard 3, the highest level, of the Swindon Carers Centre Young Carer Award. The Academy currently supports 9 young carers who have responsibilities caring for siblings, parents or grandparents. The Young Carers group meets weekly to allow time for supportive discussion, sharing with peers experiencing similar issues, and time for games and activities allowing valuable respite time.

Swindon Carers Centre developed the Young Carer Award for Schools because young carers nationally were saying that they were not always getting the support they needed from their school or college. Local statistics suggested that young carers were not all achieving their academic potential.

The Young Carer Award: Swindon Carers Centre has developed a set of 3 Standards across 5 areas:

- Leadership and Management
- Identification and assessment of individual need
- Developing provision to meet need
- Young Carer involvement
- Management systems, monitoring and evaluation

Amanda Brandon, the Hazelwood Young Carers Coordinator tells us “The aim of the Young Carers group is to ensure we provide as much support as possible to all our young carers in order that they have the opportunities they need to achieve their full potential. Receiving the award means a lot to us as it recognises the effort we have put in to making this support available to our pupils.”

Headteacher, Suzanne Lloyd, comments that “We are absolutely delighted to be presented with this award, which recognises Hazelwood Academy has attained the highest standard of the award. We aim to support all our pupils, whatever their circumstances, however we can. Amanda has done a fantastic job in embedding the Young Carers group within the school, working alongside Fiona Prinzi, Young Carers Development Officer (Schools and Further Education).”

Fiona Prinzi praises the Academy: “I am delighted that Hazelwood Academy have achieved the highest level, Standard 3, of the Young Carer Award. Amanda Brandon, the Young Carer Lead, worked very hard to implement the award standards with the full support of the headteacher, governors, young carers and dedicated colleagues. All staff are skilled in identifying and supporting young carers and this has further enhanced Hazelwood Academy’s excellent pastoral care for their pupils.”

Young Carers week commences next Monday, 8th June. All classes have been given a resource pack of activities for raising awareness of Young Carers.

For further information contact: Suzanne Lloyd, Headteacher, on 01793 497250
contactus@hazelwoodacademy.org

Notes to editors:

- Reporters and photographers are welcome, by prior arrangement, at the academy

- Hazelwood Academy has 217 pupils in 8 classes including Nursery (Hummingbird, Puffin, Robin, Woodpecker, Kingfisher, Heron, Kestrel and Falcon)
- The Academy recently achieved a 'Good' grading in its Ofsted Inspection, February 2015
- A higher than average proportions of pupils speak English as an additional language
- An above average proportion of the pupils (38%) are eligible for the pupil premium, which provides additional funding for pupils in local authority care and those known to be eligible for free school meals
- Further information can be found via: www.swindoncarers.org.uk/for-carers/young-carers/
Fiona Prinzi - Young Carers Development Officer
Email: Fiona.Prinzi@swindoncarers.org.uk
Tel: 07912 594239