

Policy Control Sheet

Policy Title:

Care 2 Learn

Author / Role:

**Sarah-Jayne Lee – SEND Manager
Student Inclusion and Support**

Date:

June 2026

Approved by:

Date Approved:

Next Review Date:

May 2027

The purpose of this policy is to explain the process for applying for Care 2 Learn funded Childcare and the administration required by the College, due to new directives.

Who does this policy apply to?

This policy applies to all students under the age of 20, that require childcare provision to support their studies at the College.

Why do we need this Policy / Background information?

Bournemouth and Poole College will be administering funding on behalf of the Care to Learn (C2L) scheme to assist young parents with childcare funding. This funding is paid to the college by the Secretary of State for Education.

C2L provides funding for childcare to help young parents (defined as those aged under 20) continue in education after the birth of a child. The scheme provides funding for childcare whilst the young parent is engaged in a study programme and is not able to provide care for their child. It can also help the young parent with any additional travel costs involved in taking the child to the childcare provider. C2L can also provide funding for childcare whilst young parents are on work placements, where these are a defined part of the study programme.

Student Eligibility Criteria and Award

For the student to be eligible for Care to Learn funding they must meet the following criteria:

The young parent must be under 20 years old on the date that they start their study programmes. Young parents who become 20 years old during their study programme can continue to get funding to the end of that specific study programme, so to the end of the same programme at the same level.

The young parent must be the main carer and in receipt of Child Benefit for the child(ren) for whom they are claiming Care to Learn. If a young parent loses custody of their child(ren), even temporarily, they must notify the college immediately. The mother or father can claim C2L, as long as:

- The other parent is unable to provide childcare, for example, they are also in education or are absent; or
- The other parent is not claiming childcare paid through any other source, for example, government funded early years places or Childcare Tax Credits

Young parents must be living and studying in England to receive C2L. National rate is £180 per child per week.

Residency

The student must also meet the Residency Criteria in the Department of Education funding rules [DfE funding rules](#)

Accompanied asylum seeking children (under 18 with an adult relative or partner)

Asylum seekers are not entitled to public funds. Accompanied asylum seeking children (those under 18 with an adult relative or partner) and those aged 18 and above are entitled to education, but not to public funds. If they are destitute, they can apply to the Home Office for suitable housing and cash for essentials, they are not eligible for other income.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC)

UASC do not receive cash support from the Home Office and the responsibility of the local authority. They are treated as looked after children and are eligible for a bursary for vulnerable groups, where they have financial need.

When these young people reach legal adulthood at age 18, institutions must consider their immigration status. If the asylum claim is decided in their favour, the local authority must provide them with the same support and services as they do care leavers. As such, they continue to be eligible for a bursary as a student from a vulnerable group until they reach the upper age limit.

When an asylum claim is not supported, the individual may not be able to claim to stay legally in the UK. When asylum claims have been fully heard/the appeals process exhausted an individual has no entitlement to public funds (with a few exceptions where the withdrawal of support would be seen as a breach of human rights).

Study Programme

The student's study programme must be funded directly from public funding

- The types of study programmes eligible are:
 - GCSEs, A levels and BTECs;
 - Non accredited day sessions and short programmes such as First Aid, Healthy Eating and Parenting
 - FE study programme in Higher Education (H) institution, including access courses and diplomas
 - Foundation HE courses where they are followed at an FE institution for example, a BTEC diploma
- The following study programmes are NOT eligible for C2L:
 - privately funded education, so an institution where students are required to pay tuition fees
 - voluntary work that is not a required part of an agreed study programme
 - apprentices, because apprentices are paid by their employer
 - HE courses in an HE institution or FE institution, including courses leading to a first degree, HND, HNC diploma in HE, foundation degree or initial teacher training
 - Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs), except for the very small number of young people aged 19 but under 20 doing a HTQ funded by Advanced Learner Loan
 - Social activities/groups where no actual programme of study takes place

Any instances where a young parent is still looking after their child, for example, while they are undertaking a study programme with a childcare provider and the child is still with the parent.

Study Programme duration

C2L will provide help with childcare costs for the duration of the student's study programme. Where students are enrolled on non-accredited, community-based courses like parenting and healthy eating, C2L is only payable for a maximum of six months in the academic year. This reflects that these courses are designed for a short-term use to provide a particular set of skill or knowledge and/or to give the young parent the confidence to progress to other education or training.

Study time, work experience and industry placements

Students can claim C2L for independent study time where it is required as part of their study programme to complete coursework, undertake revision or homework. The amount of independent study time that is appropriate must be agreed between the college and the student.

C2L will support time needed to undertake work experience and industry placements but only where these have been identified as an integral part of the study programme.

Costs associated with independent study time, work experience and industry placements will be included as part of the C2L weekly maximum of £180 per child per week, and these costs are not extra.

Childcare provision

C2L will only pay for childcare provision that is appropriately registered with Ofsted and must be registered in one of the following ways:

- On the early years register with either Ofsted or a childminder agency
- On the compulsory and/or voluntary part of the general childcare register with either Ofsted or a childminder agency
- Offered by schools (who are exempt from Ofsted registration for children aged 2+), such as school run breakfast and after school clubs, and holiday care
- If general childcare provision is not suitable for the child, then the college will give consideration for specialist provision
- As part of the application process the childcare provider must supply evidence that they are Ofsted Registered with a rating of 3/Secure or above
- Where the childcare provider is related to the child, the childcare provider must
 - live apart from the child;
 - be providing registered childcare for other children who are not related at the same time as the child they are related to; and
 - be Ofsted registered

Travel payments

As part of the funding C2L can contribute towards travel for the student, if it is necessary for the student to take their child(ren) between childcare and home. Travel payments are only paid if they are additional to the student's normal travel costs from home to college. If the childcare is based on the way to or on site of the College then no additional travel can be claimed.

Any travel claims will be part of the childcare costs (maximum allocation will not be exceeded) and must be the cheapest option. If travelling by car (not private taxi) the rate used will be 25p per mile.

Deposits and Registration fees

C2L will pay a maximum of £250 per child if the childcare provider requires this. Deposits will be paid from the C2L funding. C2L will also pay registration fees charged by the childcare provider, up to a maximum of £80 per child. These are one-off payments that will not be included as part of the weekly maximum and cannot be paid in the future academic year if the student uses the same childcare provider.

Summer Retainers

The College can pay summer retainers to childcare providers, if required, to hold the childcare place over the summer holiday period. This only apply if the student is finishing study in one year and continuing their study in the next academic year. The young parent must still meet the eligibility criteria for this to be paid.

To be eligible for the summer retainers to childcare providers, if required to hold the childcare place over the summer 2027, the student must:

- have received C2L funding in the academic year 2026 to 2027 and be intending to return to the study programme in the academic year;
- be on a study programme that has lasted for 6 weeks or more in the academic year 2026 to 2027;
- be on a study programme that finishes no earlier than 26 May 2027
- be intending to continue with the same childcare provider they used during academic year 2026 to 2027; and
- have been using the childcare provider for a minimum of six weeks

C2L can pay the summer retainer for a maximum of 8 weeks, and this cannot be more than the C2L weekly maximum rate.

Student Commitment

Awards are made on the understanding that the student maintains an attendance level of at least 90% (in all subjects/courses, including maths and English), otherwise payments will be withheld/reduced. Their attendance is monitored monthly. In addition to this, a monthly check will be made to the childcare provider to ensure the child is still attending.

If the attendance drops below 90% and the payments are withheld/reduced, the student is required to discuss with their tutor the reasons regarding the low attendance.

If the tutor is happy with the reasons (exceptional circumstances only) they must email Student Finance (studentfinance@bpc.ac.uk) to request that the withheld/reduced payments be released. Consideration will be given to mitigating circumstances such as: safeguarding, child protection; family bereavement; caring responsibilities; transport issues; for travel payments the amount will be reduced to reflect the student's attendance ie, if the student has only attended 67% of the allocated time, then they will only receive 67% of the monthly residential/travel award. A monthly report is also made to the Secretary of State for Education confirming the student's and child's continued attendance.

Funding for students who have not attended for 4 weeks or more will be stopped, without notice and funding may also be stopped if a student has not adhered to the College's rules.

The College reserves the right to require repayment of funds if it has been funded through any Government grants or bursaries.

Fraudulent Claims

It is the College's duty to protect public funds from the possibility of fraudulent claims. The College asks for detailed information and may invite applicants for interview so it can distribute the funds correctly. If the student's claim is considered fraudulent i.e. through false representation of household income or other eligibility rules during spot checks and auditing processes, the College will request that the funds awarded are repaid in full. If the student fails to repay this, the College may take legal action.

An application that is found to be fraudulent i.e. through false representation of household income or of other eligibility rules, may be cancelled and the learner may be subject to disciplinary measures by the College. The College will have the right to recover the monies awarded. Government guidance advises that institutions that identify significant fraud should report it to the Department for Education.

Data Protection

College employees, involved in administering the Care to Learn funds, must comply with the College's policy on storing and transferring information during the application process and in payment of funds.