

**CARE TO LEARN
TERMS & CONDITIONS**

Care to Learn Terms and Conditions

Policy Owner: ELT

Date of Review: May 2025

Date Approved: 20 May 2025

Next Review: July 2026

Responsibility for Review: Student Services Manager and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Policy Review Frequency: Annual

Applicable to staff: Yes

Applicable to students: Yes

Publish on College website: Yes

Consultation:

Undertaken with:	Yes/No:	Date:
Board/Committee	No	
ELT	Yes	20 May 2025
CMT		
Unions		
Students		
Employees		
Employers/Stakeholders		

Any Associated Documentation, for Reference:

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ELT SIGN-OFF: Marie Haworth, Vice Principal Quality, Teaching, Learning & Student Support

Care to Learn Scheme Terms and Conditions 2025/26

1. Introduction

C2L provides funding for childcare to help young parents 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 or industry placements, where these are a defined part of the study programme. The maximum amount of funding available is £180 per child per week.

2. Eligibility

To receive C2L in academic year 2025 to 2026, the student, their education institution and childcare provider must all meet the eligibility criteria.

2.1 Age

The young parent must be under 20 years old on the date they start their study programme. 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.

2.2 Main carer for the child(ren)

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

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

2.3 Residency

To be eligible for C2L the young parent must have the legal right to be resident in the UK at the start of their study programme. If a young parent indicates that they are not a British or Irish citizen, they will only be eligible for C2L if one of the following immigration conditions applies:

They are an asylum seeker aged:

- under 18
- 18 or over and a care leaver aged 18 or 19 (they must include an original letter from their local authority that shows their address and confirms they are a care leaver with their application)

They have:

- refugee status
- humanitarian protection

- discretionary leave to remain
- indefinite leave to remain
- indefinite leave to enter
- limited leave to remain
- limited leave to enter
- leave outside the rule

2.4 Eligibility: Childcare Provision

C2L only pays for childcare provision that is appropriately registered with Ofsted. It 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

3. Payments

3.1 Permitted use of funding

C2L will pay towards the cost of childcare up to a maximum of £180 per child per week. C2L will support childcare hours in reasonable excess of the study programme hours to allow time for the student's travel between the education institution and the childcare provider, and for any independent study time undertaken, within the maximum weekly amount.

C2L can pay deposits of up to a maximum of £250 per child if the childcare provider requires this. C2L will also pay any registration fees that are charged by the childcare provider, up to a maximum of £80 per child. This is a one-off payment that does not form part of the weekly maximum rate and will not be paid for subsequent academic years if the student uses the same childcare provision.

3.2 Payment to your childcare provider

Payment will be made directly to your childcare provider via BACS each month. Payments will only be made if you are attending your course, have at least 85% attendance and the child/children is/are attending the childcare provider.

The following are examples of absences which may be authorised and the required evidence:

- Student sickness – should be reported via the absence hotline. The number of sickness absences will be closely monitored and if considered excessive, payments may be withheld.
- Appointments – for example: hospital, doctors, dentist etc. Evidence of appointments must be provided in the form of a letter or appointment card. Failure to provide this could result in your childcare payments being withheld.
- Interviews – for example: Job, university etc. Evidence of interviews must be provided in the form of a letter or email confirmation. Failure to provide this could result in your childcare payments being withheld.
- Bereavement or funeral.

- Religious holidays.

If you cease to attend or withdraw from your course, financial support will finish on the last date of recorded attendance. The responsibility for all childcare costs reverts to yourself from this date.

4. Summer Retainers

Summer retainers can be paid to childcare providers, if required, to hold the childcare place over the summer holiday period. This only applies if a student is finishing study in one year and continuing their study in the next academic year. The young parent and their study programme must continue to meet the eligibility criteria for a summer retainer to be payable.

To be eligible for a summer retainer for summer 2026, the student must:

- have received C2L funding in academic year 2025 to 2026 and be intending to return to the study programme in academic year 2026 to 2027
- be on a study programme that has lasted for 6 weeks or more in academic year 2025 to 2026
- be on a study programme that finishes no earlier than 26 May 2026
- be intending to continue with the same childcare provider they used during academic year 2025 to 2026
- have been using the childcare provider for a minimum of 6 weeks

Summer retainers can be paid for a maximum of 8 weeks with the amount per week not exceeding the C2L weekly maximum rates.