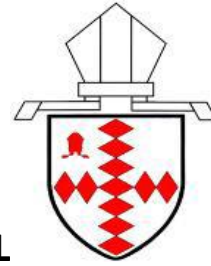




**St PAUL'S (C OF E) PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**Young Carers Policy**

**Faith - Hope – Love**

**Adopted: March 2024**

**Next Review: September 2025**

## **Contents**

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Ethos Statement.....              | 3 |
| 2. Introduction.....                 | 3 |
| 3. Definition.....                   | 3 |
| 4. Legal Framework.....              | 3 |
| 5. Issues faced by young carers..... | 4 |
| 6. Identifying young carers.....     | 4 |
| 7. Young carers in school.....       | 5 |
| 8. School aims.....                  | 5 |
| 9. Monitoring and reviewing.....     | 6 |

## **Appendices**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| I. Young Carer form..... | 7 |
|--------------------------|---|

## **ETHOS STATEMENT**

At St Paul's C of E Primary School we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for all our pupils to allow them to learn effectively, improve their life chances and help them maximise their potential.

## **INTRODUCTION**

St Pauls C of E Primary School is committed to supporting young carers to access a full education. We are aware that some of our pupils are young carers. A young carer is someone under 18 who is caring unpaid for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.

This policy should be implemented by all staff members in order to ensure young carers at our school are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled to. The aim of this policy is to raise awareness among school staff about the needs of young carers and to support them in establishing a whole school approach to address the issues that may arise within a school setting. Parents are encouraged to work together with the school and keep us informed about any concerns or issues regarding young carers. This is to ensure that the school can provide appropriate support for both the child and family members.

## **DEFINITION**

A young carer is someone under the age of 18 years who provides regular and ongoing care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled, elderly or misuses substances. A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. Young carers may be primary carers, such as caring for a parent, or a secondary carer, such as helping to care for a sibling. A young carer may undertake some or all of the following:

- Practical tasks
- Physical care
- Personal and intimate care
- Emotional support
- Household management
- Looking after siblings
- Administering medication
- Taking responsibility of younger siblings
- Financial care

## **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation and guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 2004
- Equality Act 2010
- Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004

This policy was written in consultation with staff following advice and guidance produced by following:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Care Act 2014
- The Young Carers (Needs Assessments) Regulations 2015
- DfE (2010) 'Improving support for young carers – family focused approaches'
- DfE (2016) 'The lives of young carers in England'

### **ISSUES FACED BY YOUNG CARERS**

Caring responsibilities that young carers undertake can impact on young people's education in a number of different ways including, but not limited to, the following:

- Lateness
- Tiredness
- Lack of concentration
- Anxiety
- Non-attendance
- Late or no submission of homework
- Not participating in extracurricular activities and school events
- Experiencing bullying or isolation
- Underachieving academically
- Poor education/career choices

Young carers may exhibit challenging behaviour in environments away from home in order to offset the fact that they have to take on adult responsibilities and behave in an adult fashion within the family home. Many may be unable to develop friendships outside of school, due to reasons such as being unable to invite friends to their home, restricting the development of a pupil's social skills. Some young carers carry out tasks for which they are physically ill equipped, this can impact on their overall health. Long-term caring responsibilities can also impact significantly on the mental health of young people, which like their physical health, can lead to poor attendance. Some families will be dependent solely on state benefits, affecting their ability to afford proper school clothing and/or extra-curricular activities, such as school trips. Families involving a young carer may be unwilling or unable to attend school functions, leading to them becoming more isolated from the school environment and unaware of issues that the young carer may be experiencing.

### **IDENTIFYING YOUNG CARERS**

During the school enrolment process for new pupils, the school will:

- Identify parents or family members who have disabilities or other long-term physical/mental health conditions.

- Clarify whether the pupil has caring responsibilities. Identify whether the young carer has any additional needs that need to be supported.
- Establish individual pupil plans to recognise the child's specific needs as a young carer. Where appropriate, a young carer may be referred to the LA or other support agencies for a needs assessment.

St Paul's C of E Primary School will continuously bear in mind that where a parent has a disability, mental health or substance abuse issue, the pupil might be the carer whilst showing none of the indicative signs of a young carer.

## **YOUNG CARERS IN SCHOOL**

The SLT Young Carers Lead, Ms Angela Batchelor, is the main point of contact for young carers in the school. This appointed person is responsible for:

- Ensuring that young carers have the same access to a full education and career choices as their peers
- Promoting and coordinating the support young carers need
- Liaising with other agencies as appropriate, including adult services

It is important that staff members can effectively identify young carers and that young carers feel that they can ask for help; therefore, raising awareness among staff and pupils about the issues relating to young carers and what support is available is vital. In order to ensure that staff members understand the issues faced by young carers, training and ongoing professional development about the matter is provided for staff.

St Paul's C of E Primary School aims to create a welcoming and friendly environment for all pupils, in which young carers feel comfortable to discuss their situation. The school will publish clear information regarding how pupils and their families can access support, ensuring that all pupils are aware of this information. The curriculum, primarily PSHE lessons, will be used to promote a full understanding, acceptance of, and respect for, the role of young carers. The school premises are accessible to people with disabilities and/or illnesses, offering additional support to enable them to attend parents' evenings and other school events.

Staff members will not discuss a young carer's personal situation and related arrangements in front of their peers. The school will follow child protection procedures regarding any pupil who they believe to be at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.

## **SCHOOL AIMS**

We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well at school. At St Paul's C of E Primary School we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified, and supported effectively.

To ensure a whole school approach we provide the following to support and aid our pupils in need by the following:

- The school will continuously promote additional links with adult care agencies which may be able to support families and relieve care responsibilities.
- The Young Carers lead will meet with young carers on a regular basis and will liaise with teachers regarding difficulties, attendance and deadlines.
- St Paul's C of E Primary School will offer support to the pupil and their family during the transition process, sharing agreed information with their new school where appropriate.
- Targeted early interventions are used in order to provide support to young carers, ensuring that they are able to reach their full potential.
- Children will have the opportunity to attend homework clubs after school so that young carers are able to complete it around caring responsibilities.
- The school has a commitment of seeking views of young carers regularly to understand what support can be provided.
- Where parents are unable to physically attend parents' evening due to their disability, medical condition or substance abuse, alternative arrangements will be considered where necessary.
- Young carers are provided with opportunities to speak to someone in private regarding their role as a young carer.
- Staff members treat young carers in a sensitive and child centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- The school holds regular PSHE lessons and assemblies to inform and educate our children as well as making young carers feel heard and supported.

### **MONITORING AND REVIEWING**

The headteacher and the Safeguarding Lead will continually monitor and review practice to ensure this policy is implemented correctly. Staff will all be aware of other relevant school policies which will be implemented alongside this policy. This policy will be reviewed by the local governing body on an annual basis.



## Appendices

Pupil's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the pupil have parents or other family members who have a long-term illness or disability, or who are affected by mental ill-health or substance misuse whereby the pupil provides support for?

Yes  No

If you wish, you can give further details here: (not required)

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Do you consider your child to be a young carer?

Yes  No

If Yes, please state why:

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Would you like more information about the types of support the school provides to young carers?

Yes  No

Please provide a name and telephone number or email address so that we can contact you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/email address: \_\_\_\_\_