

St. Joseph's RC Primary School

Young Carers Policy

May 2021

“I came so that
you may have life,
and have it to
the full.”

– John 10:10



Faith

Respect

Confidence

Resilience

Empathy

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Young Carers Policy

This policy is to ensure that Young carers at St Joseph's are identified and supported within school, so that they can access the education that they are entitled to.

Who is a Young Carer?

A Young carer is a young person who is helping to care for someone who is at home. This could be for a parent, grandparent, sibling or other relative. The carer may care for one or more members of the family.

The relative that they look after may fall into one or more of the following categories:-

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental Health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance and Alcohol abuse.

Absentee' adult family members:

If an adult carer is regularly absent from the home due to work commitments, leaving a child or young person in sole charge of care provision (e.g. after school, in the evenings, at weekends), then the young person will be eligible for Young Carers support.

Support which a Young Carer may give.

A Young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young carer has to deal with can range from:

- Nursing Care – giving medication, injections, helping with mobility, changing dressings
- Personal Care – washing, dressing, feeding, helping with toilet requirements.
- Emotional Care – listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a relative through depression, being there to talk to, monitoring state of emotions.
- Domestic Care- washing, ironing, shopping, cleaning and cooking.
- Financial Care – paying bills sorting out benefits.
- Child Care- looking after younger siblings in addition to their caring responsibilities

Possible effects on education.

As a Young Carer, they may have many responsibilities. St Joseph's RC Primary realises that their education may suffer. This could be due to:-

- Being late into school/absent from school
- Anxiety as a relative may be ill at home and they may find it hard to concentrate.

- Tiredness
- Emotional
- Homework not completed or handed in on time
- Poor attainment
- Physical pain – back pain due to lifting
- Bullying
- Isolation - unable to have friends at home or socialise with them.
- Low esteem
- Limited social skills.
- False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their frustrations or anger)
- Poverty
- Unable to attend after school clubs
- Difficulties in engaging parents as they may feel embarrassed about their child caring for them, frightened that their child may be taken into social care. Unable to attend meetings at school due to their condition.

St Joseph's RC Primary support for Young Carers

St Joseph's realises that Young Carers need support so that they can have access to education as all children should.

- The designated person for Young Carers is Mr R. Bostock, SENDCo. He will liaise with colleagues, parents and other agencies with the young carers consent.
- Young carers will be given the opportunity to speak to someone in private and not discuss their caring situation in front of peers.
- All available support services will be available to Young Carers.
- St Joseph's RC Primary will follow the child protection procedures regarding any Young Carer at risk of harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- St Joseph's RC Primary will promote understanding, acceptance and respect for Young Carers and their families regarding caring, illness and disability.

St Joseph's RC Primary realises that Young Carers may have difficulties with school situations regarding school rules etc. and some flexibility may be needed. Such flexibility may be considered: -

- Use of mobile phone or able to make calls home to ill parents
- Extension time for homework.
- Access to lunchtime club to complete homework or during break times.
- Access for parents with limited mobility (home visits or phone call home if needed)
- Liaison with parents.
- Arrangements for school work to be sent home, access to a laptop and support, if a Carer is to be absent from school for a while (this would be a 'last resort').
- Arriving late/ leaving school early to attend medical appointments for parents etc.

When St Joseph's RC Primary Young Carers transition to secondary school, we will endeavour to make sure the Year 6 child will have an allocated member of staff to whom they can go to with any problems and that their situation is carefully and sensitively conveyed to the appropriate department.