



St Mary's C of E Primary School Young Carers Policy 2019

At St Mary's Church of England Primary School we are committed to our children becoming successful learners and confidential individuals. We know that if a child feels unhappy, stressed or insecure, this can impact on their well-being and their ability to learn. We understand that if a young person looks after someone, they may need additional support both outside and within school to help them get the most out of their education.

Young carers look after someone who has a disability, long-term illness, mental health problem, or drugs or alcohol misuse. Young carers may be taking responsibility of a family member, including siblings, or close friend. This may take the form of nursing tasks, domestic chores, supervision, emotional support or help with communication.

Even if they are not directly responsible for these tasks, the impact on their home life may mean young carers have less support for homework; for time with family members; or for their general physical and mental well-being. A young carer's personal and physical development, physical and emotional health, as well as social opportunities can all be affected by the family situation and their caring role. This may include missing school or being distracted when at school; feeling lonely because of not having enough time for friends, sports and social activities; physical illness, such as back pain due to helping to lift the person being cared for; being 'on call' all the time; worry and resentment, or boredom due to having to spend a lot of time at home.

Our school:

- Has a designated member of staff who has a special responsibility for young carers. Currently our designated contact is *Mary Murphy-Diprose*.
- Is sensitive towards young carers' needs, and aims to show discretion.
- Respects your privacy and will only share information about you and your family with people who need to know, in order to help you, and to ensure your safety. We will consult with you before sharing information.
- Can put you in touch with our local Young Carers Service and other support services.
- Holds weekly clubs for our young carers to have a safe and confidential space to talk, play games, do crafts etc.
- Organises outings and day trips for our Young Carers
- Liaises with the local authority to provide assistance for disabled parents in getting their children to school.
- Provides flexibility around homework expectations, for example having a homework club in school
- Assists parents with disabilities and health problems in accessing parent's evenings, and communicates in a way that meets their needs.
- Run sessions on young carers in the PSHE and Citizenship programme for each year group, to help pupil's understand issues, carer's rights and the support available.
- Holds annual assemblies on what it means to be a young carer.
- Provides information about young carers on the school website and in the school newsletter.

Policy date: December 2019

Policy review date: December 2020