



Type name of policy.

Policy owner/author	L Merrick
Approved by	Headteacher
Statutory policy	No
Review cycle	Every 3 years
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Date of next review	<u>01 May 2025</u>
Related policies	

Version History Log

Date	Version	Comments/Summary of changes
<u>01/05/2023</u>	2	Included updated information on support offered. Added definition of a Young Carer from Children and Family Act 2014.



St. Mary's CofE Primary

'Learning for Life'

'Learning for life' with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' is at the heart of St Mary's. At our school, children are seen as unique and will feel loved, safe and empowered to flourish so they reach their full potential both academically and personally.

Introduction

At St Mary's Church of England Primary School, we are committed to helping our children become successful learners and confidential individuals. We know that if a child feels unhappy, stressed or overwhelmed, 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 reach their full potential.

A Young Carer is defined in section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014 as: **'A person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person of any age. That may be a parent or sibling, grandparent or friend. It can include help for physical or mental illness, frailty in old age, a disability or because of substance abuse.'**

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. We recognise that we have a responsibility at St Mary's to ensure every single child reaches their full potential and, in order to do this, additional care and support may be required.

Our school:

- Has a designated member of staff who has a responsibility for supporting the Young Carers (currently our designated contact is Laura Merrick).
- Is sensitive towards young carers' needs, and aims to show discretion where needed.
- Can put families in touch with our local Young Carers Service and other support services.
- Holds a weekly club for our young carers ('Cool Carer' club) the aim of which is to ensure the young carers have a safe and confidential space to talk, express themselves and socialise.
- Liaises with the local authority to provide assistance for parents in getting their children to school.
- Provides flexibility around homework expectations and liaises with teachers about additional support and consideration needed during learning time.
- Runs 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 about the role of Young Carers.
- Provides additional pastoral care for Young Carers e.g. counselling, ELSA, play therapy.
- Signposts to local services and charities for parents and young carers including Action for Carers and Surrey Young Carers.
- Shares information on the role of Young Carers in the form of leaflets available in the school office and on a display board in our 'Cool Carers' meeting area (currently SureStart centre).
- Offers emotional support to Young Carers and their families.
- Ensure our Young Carers are meeting their full potential by providing interventions and academic support, if required.
- Encourages children to self-identify through sharing information with all pupils about the role of a Young carer.



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- Reaches out to families where it is believed a child is taking on a caring role and offers support in referring to Surrey Young Carers.
- Shares information on how the school supports its young carers through the HSLW weekly bulletin.
- Ensures all staff are aware of who to refer to if it suspected a child is taking on a caring role at home (Laura Merrick).

Policy written by: L Merrick
Next review due: May 2025