



SAINT JOHN'S

Young Carers Policy

Designated Member of Staff	Inclusion Lead
Committee with responsibility	Curriculum and Standards
Date of Issue	Autumn 2020
Frequency of Review	Annual

Issue Number	Issue Date	Summary of Changes
1	December 2021	Review and re-formatting of the policy
2	March 2024	Review of policy

The Young Carers Policy at Saint John's Primary School is informed by Christian Values which underpin every aspect of the community's life and work, including the curriculum.

At Saint John's Primary School, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home.

When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, he or she may need a little extra support to help him or her get the most out of school.

Warning signs

At Saint John's Primary School, we recognise that young carers are not easy to spot and many actively try to conceal their caring role from teachers, pastoral staff and peers for fear of bullying or outside interference in their families. All of the warning signs below could be indicators of another problem. However, staff noticing these signs should consider asking the pupil if they are helping to look after someone at home.

- Regular or increased lateness or absence.
- Concentration problems, anxiety, tiredness.
- Under-achievement and late or incomplete homework: may be a sudden unexplained drop in attainment.
- Few or no peer friendships; conversely the pupil may get on well with adults and present as very mature for their age.
- Victim of bullying, sometimes explicitly linked to a family member's disability, health or substance misuse problem.
- Behavioural problems, sometimes the result of anger or frustration expressed inappropriately.
- Unable to attend extra-curricular activities.
- Difficulties in engaging parents; parents not attending parents' evenings.

Our Young Carers Policy says how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Our school:

- Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers: the Inclusion Lead
- Can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings.
- Respects your right to privacy and will only share information about you and your family with people who need to know to help you.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role
- Allows young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Can give parents advice about how to get their children into school where transport is a problem.

Our enrolment process for new pupils and their families attempts to establish the following:

- Does the pupil have parents or other family members who have disabilities or other long term physical or mental health problems?
- Does the pupil help to look after them and what impact does this have on his/ her education?
- Is the family in touch with support services that could reduce the pupil's caring role?

Some families may choose to keep their issues private, however at Saint John's Primary School we recognise that offering signposting and information about other services at an early stage may make all the difference.