

## **St Peter's C of E Academy Young Carer Policy**

### **Introduction**

At St Peter's Academy, 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 get the most out of school. In some instances, the young carer may care for younger siblings.

### **Possible effect on education**

St Peter's Academy acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Physical problems such as back pain from lifting
- False signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home
- Limited social skills
- Bullying
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available
- Low self esteem

### **Support Offered**

St Peter's Primary School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. We recognise that children may not always wish to discuss home-life issues and will offer help and support sensitively. Through this policy, we are giving the message that young carers' education is important.

### **Our School:**

- Has a named member of staff, with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help.
- Provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and who will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.

Date issued: March 2018

Start review by: March 2020

Custodian: PSHE Coordinator

Date Adopted: March 2018 LBM

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- Treats young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensures young carers can access all available support services in school. We can also put families in touch with other support services.
- Follows child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- Promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.
- Recognises that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings.

**Available provision includes (but is not limited to):**

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to phone home
- Negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed)
- Access to homework clubs (where these are available)
- Lunchtime detentions rather than after school detentions (where possible)
- Arrangements for schoolwork to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis). Any approved absence for a young carer will be time limited. (DfES 2006)
- Access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound.
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school.
- We will also signpost children to local young carer associations / networks.

**Monitoring the Policy**

The policy will be monitored and evaluated by:

- PSHE Coordinator and ELSA TA
- Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
- Governors

The policy and/or procedures will, where necessary, be revised in light of these evaluations.

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