

Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

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Young Carers Policy

Policy Objectives

At Edward Peake Middle School, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances. We acknowledge that there are Young Carers in our community and that being a Young Carer can have an adverse effect on a Young Person's education. We have adopted this Young Carers Policy so that we will be able to relieve some of the worries that a Young Carer may have about home and their school work, and show that we believe their education and wellbeing are important.

Who are Young Carers?

Young Carers are children and young people under the age of eighteen, whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. They carry out tasks and responsibilities, which are additional to those appropriate for their age. The person they look after may have one of the following:

- Physical disability
- Mental Health issues
- Learning difficulties
- Long term illness

A Young Carers' responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (e.g. bathing, dressing and feeding)
- Giving or prompting medication/injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Looking after younger siblings
- Budgeting and paying bills

A Young Carer can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life is often restricted by few opportunities for fun and after school activities.

Factors which may indicate that a young person is a Young Carer include:

- Illness or disability in the family
- Being late or absent (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and/or often tired
- Academic performance below potential
- Homework is often not completed

- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- Not making use of out of school activities
- Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturity in a safe environment
- Behavioural problems
- Limited contact with school by parents/carers
- Being bullied

If we believe that a pupil could be a potential young carer we will be sensitive and respectful in our approach as we appreciate they may not want their peers to know.

Before passing this information to colleagues we will obtain the consent of the Young Carer and their parents/carers.

Support offered

As a school, we have three designated members of staff with specific responsibilities for Young Carers.

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Miss H Butchard | Deputy Headteacher |
| Mrs T Jeffs | Assistant Headteacher |
| Mr R Scoot | Safeguarding and Pastoral Manager |

Measures in place for Young Carers:

- Pupil check in with the HIVE team
- Laptop loan service available
- Open door policy every break and lunchtime
- School works closely with outside agencies including Young Carers team, Social Services, Priority Families, Early Help team, School Nurse
- Prior notice to be given if needed to stay after school or school trips
- Pupils identified and introduced prior to September start by visiting local lower schools

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Signed:  Chair of Governors

Date approved July 2022

Review date July 2025