



St Faith's

Church of England
Infant and Nursery School



Young Carers Policy

"Our inclusive St Faith's family strives to enable all to achieve their full potential and inspire a community of hope and friendship.

We seek excellence by ensuring a safe, respectful and flourishing learning community, where differences are celebrated and our genuine love and high expectations make a difference to all."

Oscar Romero "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

As a Church School, the distinctive Christian values of respect, compassion, trust, justice, friendship and community are promoted through the experiences we offer to all our pupils, to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding that they require to lead confident, healthy and independent lives. We promote the teaching and understanding of fundamental British values in order to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. We positively teach the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. Teaching the fundamental British values helps the children to become informed, active and responsible citizens.

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of **Young Carers** in our school. It reflects the consensus of opinion of all members of staff. It is based on current practice and has the full agreement of the governing body. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Head teacher, teachers and support staff. It is our collective responsibility to raise awareness and that all policies are known, understood and used in an appropriate way.

Introduction

At St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School we are committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers at St Faith's are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

Definition

A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone at home. Most are caring for a parent, commonly in a single parent family, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one family member. The person they look after will have one or more of:

- Physical disability (including sensory disability)
- Learning disability
- Mental health problem
- Chronic illness
- Substance misuse problem

Caring Tasks

A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member.

The caring tasks that a young carer has to deal with can range from:

Nursing care - giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility etc.

Personal intimate care - washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements.

Emotional care - being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.

Domestic care - doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc.

Childcare - taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

Possible Effect on Education

St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School acknowledges that there are 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 home learning
- 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.
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available.
- Low self esteem.

It also might be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called into question). They may be unable to attend parents' evenings.

Support Offered

St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, we want to give the message that young carers' education is important.

Our Nurture Lead is the main contact for the Young Carers in the school. Our Nurture Lead meets with the Young Carers on a weekly basis and liaises with the Pupil Premium Champion, the SENDCo and the Headteacher. The Nurture Lead also liaises with relevant colleagues and agencies with the consent of the Young Carer and parent and in conjunction with the Pupil Premium Champion, the SENDCo and the Headteacher.

St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School will:

- Provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Appreciate that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- Follow 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.
- Provide staff access to information and training to enable them to recognise indications that a child has a caring responsibility.

In addition, St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School will recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Negotiable deadlines for home learning, if applicable.
- Access to the Tree House (Nurture room) to complete home learning with the Nurture Lead.
- 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.
- Offering to collect the children and transport to and from school, if required.

Approved by the governing body on:	January 2023
Signed (Governor):	Robert Parker
Signed (Acting Headteacher):	Amanda Konrath
Review Date:	January 2025