

St Peter's C of E Academy Young Carer Protocol

As a church school, we believe that 'Giving children the keys to unlock their future' will enable all pupils to flourish within our care and achieve their full potential. This is underpinned by the words of Jesus:

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 16:19)

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.

We also recognize that young people may benefit from the experience of being a young carer and we would seek to explore and celebrate these.

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 Academy 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 protocol, we are giving the message that young carers' education is important.

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Our School:

- Has a named member of staff (the Headteacher) , with special responsibility for young carers and lets relevant 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.
- 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)
- Arrangements for schoolwork to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis). Any approved absence for a young carer will be time limited.
- 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, where needed.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Protocol

The protocol will be monitored and evaluated by:

- PSHE leader
- Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
- Governors

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