



Whole School Commitment to providing effective provision for pupils who are Young Carers

Rationale

Lots of children look after someone at home who is ill or disabled. They often learn lots of skills because they look after someone. However, sometimes they may feel tired, sad or worried, they may need a break or to have some fun. They may also miss school or find school difficult.

The 2011 census identified 178,000 young carers in England and Wales alone; an 83% increase in the number of young carers aged 5 to 7 years and a 55% increase in the number of children caring who are aged 8 to 9 years. When figures from the Northern Ireland and Scottish census are taken into account, the total number of young carers in the UK is at least 195,000. There are 10,000 Young Carers in Kent and BBC research suggests that there may be 30,000 more.

We therefore believe it is essential that we take steps to identify and support children who are Young Carers here at St Peter's.

How do we do this?

We have 5 identified steps of support for our Young Carers which includes the following:

1. UNDERSTAND

We have assigned specific members of staff with responsibility for understanding and addressing Young Carers needs

2. INFORM

We take steps to raise awareness in both staff and parents/carers by sharing knowledge about disability, illness and Young Carers throughout the school

3. IDENTIFY

We have procedures in place to identify Young Carers, through parent letters, self-identification, teacher checklists, attendance monitoring and rigorous pupil progress and impact monitoring systems

4. LISTEN

We ensure that all pupils are listened to, consulted with and given time to talk. This is through fostering strong teacher/pupil relationships, time with our Pupil Mentor and parent/pupil conferencing sessions. We actively seek the views of our pupils and their families in order to shape and improve support.

5. SUPPORT

We ensure that appropriate support is in place within the school through our Pupil Mentor, wellbeing and involvement assessments, pupil progress and assessment cycle, provision mapping and pupil/parent conferencing sessions.

We work effectively with outside agencies to ensure that the correct support is in place for the family. We use school resources, including Pupil Premium funding where appropriate to minimise any barriers to education and learning experienced by our Young Carers.

Who are the key members of staff?

We have identified two members of staff and a Lead Governor for Young Carers:

Karen Godsell – Deputy Headteacher, Inclusion Leader, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Strategic Lead for Young Carers

Denise Pearson – Family Liaison Officer (FLO), Pupil Mentor, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Operational Lead for Young Carers

Malcolm Burgess – Lead Governor for Safeguarding and Lead Governor for Young Carers

We have also established a working party of staff members to ensure that we continue to strive for best practice in all school systems. The working party consists of:

Karen Godsell – Deputy Headteacher, Inclusion Leader, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Strategic Lead for Young Carers

Denise Pearson – Family Liaison Officer (FLO), Pupil Mentor, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Operational Lead for Young Carers

Malcolm Burgess – Lead Governor for Safeguarding and Lead Governor for Young Carers

Christina Law – Office Manager

The group works closely with Kent Young Carers and with the pupils and parents themselves.

All members of the Young Carers team can be contacted directly or through the school Office and would be happy to discuss any aspect of our provision for Young Carers.