

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

celebrates life and learning



YOUNG CARERS POLICY

AUTHOR:	MRS. F. TIERNAN
REVIEWED:	BIANNUALLY
NEXT REVIEW:	MAY, 2023

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

celebrates life and learning

YOUNG CARERS POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Bede, patron of our school, wrote:

“It was always my delight to learn and to teach”.

We are a celebrating community, living the Gospel Values, committed to educating children in the light of the Catholic Faith.

We journey together so that we

“Might have life - life in all its fullness”.

John 10:10

RATIONALE

At St. Bede's Catholic Junior School we believe that all children and young people have the right to a quality education, regardless of their experiences outside of school, particularly at home. When a child looks after someone in their family with a history of long term physical or mental health illness, a disability or alcohol or substance misuse they made need extra support to help them get the most out of school.

OBJECTIVES

This Policy outlines what St. Bede's Catholic Junior School will do to identify and support Young Carers. The Policy has been adopted with the involvement of the whole school community. St. Bede's Catholic Junior School is committed to developing a culture of inclusion and equality.

LEGISLATION

There are several pieces of legislation which sets out measures and actions for schools in respect of Young Carers. These include (but are not limited to):

- Children and Families Act 2014
- The Equality Act 2010
- Children Act 2004
- Care Act 2014

RESPONSIBILITIES

This Policy aims to ensure all staff take responsibility to identify Young Carers. Mrs. Harrington is the school's Young Carer's Champion. She is a point of contact for on-going information, advice and guidance via the commissioned Young Carers' Service.

Other key members of staff have specific roles to play:

- Headteacher
- Designated Safeguarding Leads
- SENDCo
- Mental Health First Aid Champions
- PSHE Coordinator

DEFINING A YOUNG CARER

A Young Carer is a child or young person under 18 years of age who helps look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem. Caring can involve physical or emotional care, or taking responsibility for someone's safety or well-being. The level of responsibility assumed by a Young Carer is often inappropriate to their age and at a level beyond simply helping out with jobs at home, which is a normal part of growing up.

IDENTIFYING A YOUNG CARER

Unless the school is advised about a pupil's home circumstances, Young Carers' risk is initially being identified by negative aspects of their behaviour or work. Some Young Carer's worry about bullying or interference in their family life and may seek to conceal their role from their peers and from teachers.

Some of the indicators that a pupil has unrecognised responsibilities are:

- Regular lateness or unauthorised absences increasing
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Lack of concentration, anxiety or worry
- Under attainment/under achievement
- Behaviour problems (taking out their anger or frustration)
- Isolated, embarrassed or unable to take friends home
- False signs of maturity because of assuming adult roles
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities
- Bullying
- Low self-esteem
- Feeling no one understands or that no support is available
- It may also be difficult to engage parents.

The above may be indicators of a range of problems, some not associated with a child having a caring role at home. However, in dealing with any child exhibiting any of the above signs, staff should consider asking the child if they are helping to look after someone at home.

SUPPORT OFFERED

St Bede's Catholic Junior 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.

The Young Carer Champion is Mrs. Harrington and she will be the main contact for Young Carers in the school. Mrs. Harrington will meet the Young Carers on a regular basis and will liaise with other teachers responsible for Inclusion and Vulnerable pupils. The Lead will also liaise with relevant agencies, with the consent of the Young Carer and their parent/carer.

St Bede's Catholic Junior 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 child's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Treat Young Carer's in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensure that 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.
- Create a One Page Profile for all Young Carers to establish individual needs and support.
- Provide staff access to information and training to enable them to recognise indications that a child has a caring responsibility.

In addition, St Bede's Catholic Junior School will recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of Young Carers.

- The school will look to consider alternative arrangements if a young carer cannot attend after-school activities.
- The school will allow young carers to use a phone to call home during breaks and lunchtimes to reduce the worry that they may have about a family member.
- The school actively seeks feedback from our young carers and their families to look at how we can improve the support we put in place for young carers.

TRAINING

Staff access Continued Professional Development (CPD) to identify all forms of vulnerability and safeguarding concerns and take appropriate action, following the school's policy and procedures.

POLICY REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed in light of any incidents, guidance, training, and changes in legislation or at the request of a member of the School community.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Keeping Children Safe in Education; Statutory guidance for schools and colleges (2021)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying. DfE guidance (July 2017)
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Mental Health and Well-being Policy
- Pupil Premium Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- PSHE Policy

Signed (Head Teacher): F. Tiernan

Date: Sept 2021

Signed (Chair of Governors): P.Owen

Date: Sept 2021