

'With Jesus we can achieve what we dream and believe'

School Mission (Spring 2015)

**Young Carers Policy**

At St. Michael's we believe that all children and young people have the right to learn, enjoy and achieve, regardless of what is happening at home. We have developed our Young Carers Policy to show how we will support any pupil who helps to look after someone at home and to demonstrate how we will try to relieve some of the worries which young carers have about home and their school work.

Defining a Young Carer:

A young person under 18 years of age who helps to 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 being responsible for someone's safety and wellbeing. The level of responsibility assumed by a young carer is often inappropriate to their age and beyond the level of simply helping out at home as part of the process of growing up.

St. Michael's School acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on their education.

Young carer's might experience:

- Being late or absent because of responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Becoming angry or frustrated
- Isolation –feeling no-one understands
- Bullying

- Low self esteem

We will

- Have designated members of staff with special responsibility for young carers. (Mrs Birch)
- Let all new pupils know who the designated member of staff are
- Put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service
- Run PSHE lessons on the challenges faced by young carers
- Respect the right to privacy and only share information with people who need to know in order to help young carer
- Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- Allow young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtime
- Ensure that staff are aware of the warning signs which may indicate that a pupil is a young carer
- Be accessible to parents/carers who have mobility/communication difficulties and involve them in parents evening etc.

Policy to be reviewed June 2022