St Andrew's CE VC Primary School

A church school that learns, grows and achieves together

Roots to grows, Wings to fly
'They will soar on wings like Eagles'
Isaiah 40:31

Young Carers Policy

Signed (Chair)	Name Anthony Parker	Date October 2026
Signed (Head)	Name Graham Pike	Date October 2026
Ratified by Governing Body on		Next Review

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This policy has been assessed with regard to its impact on equalities issues. The equality impact assessment has been conducted by the relevant Governors' sub-committee and focused on race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and religion/belief. Community Cohesion has also formed part of the impact assessment work in order to ensure respect for diversity, alongside a commitment to common and shared bonds.

EqIA outcomes

☐ *The assessment found no areas of potential negative impact and actions resulting in positive impact are in place.*

Introduction:
St. Andrew's CE Primary School is committed to supporting young carers to access education.

This policy aims to ensure young carers at St. Andrew's CE Primary School 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
- Misusing alcohol or other substances
- Fail or elderly

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 or complete 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.
- **Financial care -** running the household, bill paying, benefit collection etc.
- **Childcare -** taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

Possible impact on Education
St Andrew's CE Primary 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 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.
- Low self-esteem and lacking confidence.

- Feeling worried, stressed or angry.
- Tiredness and appearing withdrawn.
- Lack of time for home learning.
- Poor attainment.
- False signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles.
- Not having access to ‘normal’ childhood experiences
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration).
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities.
- Isolation and loneliness
- Limited social skills.
- Bullying.
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available.
- Mental and physical health problems due to the caring role.

It also might be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about child being taken into care, 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. Andrew’s CE Primary 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 Lead will be the SENDco. They will be appointed and they will be the main contact for the Young Carers in the school. The Young Carers Lead will meet with the Young Carers on a regular basis and when the need arises and liaise with parents/ carers.

The Young Carer Lead will liaise with relevant colleagues and agencies with the consent of the Young Carer and parent.

St. Andrew’s CE Primary 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 recognize indications that a child has a caring responsibility.
- Refer the child to South Gloucestershire Young Carers for additional support if this is appropriate.

Young carers | South Gloucestershire (southglos.gov.uk)
Help for young carers | Carers Support Centre

In addition, St. Andrew's CE Primary School will recognise flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to phone home.
- Negotiable deadlines for home learning (when needed).
- Arrangements for remote learning (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.