

St. Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School

Dene Road, Ashted, KT21 1EA



Young Carers' Policy

"Loving God and Loving our Neighbour"

Responsible Governor	
Approved by the Governing Body	Autumn term 2023
Date of Next Review	Autumn term 2025
Signature Chair of Governors	

“Loving God and loving our Neighbour”

1. Statement of principles

- This policy is rooted in our Christian values of Love, Compassion, Trust, Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Courage and Friendship
- We demonstrate Love with the care with which we plan exciting and engaging learning experiences for the children and the respect with which we involve them as partners in developing the curriculum

This Young Carers' policy is written in conjunction with the following points. At St Giles' C of E (A) Infant school we support young carers by:

- Providing a named staff member with lead responsibility
- Including teaching about young carers in our everyday school life such as assemblies or our 'Jigsaw' PSHE programme
- Avoiding stigmatisation or labelling of pupils who are young carers and provide guidance on preventing bullying
- Ensuring parents can access school for open evenings and if this is not possible, consider how links can be made with home
- Ensuring we think about sensitivities and differences around cultural needs
- Considering how information on pupils' pastoral needs can be effectively passed on between infant and junior schools
- Providing specific staff training
- Including mechanisms for effective inter agency work to support young carers
- Including mechanisms to consult with young carers and their parents about content of policies and delivery of support

We acknowledge that there likely to be young carers among our pupils and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a child's education.

2. Who are Young Carers?

Young carers are children and young people whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. The person they look after may have one or more of the following:

- Physical disability
- Mental health needs
- Learning difficulties
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Long term illness

The person they care for may be a parent, sibling, grandparent, and the care they give may be physical and/or emotional.

Young carers responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (eg bathing, feeding or dressing)
- Giving or prompting medication /injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Caring for siblings
- Budgeting and paying bills

Young carers can feel isolated, worried or tired. Their social life may be restricted with few opportunities for fun and after school activities.

Factors which may indicate a young person is caring include:

- Illness or disability in the family
- Being late or absent from school (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and often tired
- Academic performance below potential
- Homework often incomplete
- Isolation from peers or problems with interacting with peers
- Not making use of after school activities
- Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a safe environment
- Behavioural issues
- Limited contact with school by parents
- Being bullied

3. Support offered

As a school we will:

- Designate a member of staff (Mrs Justine Pirt) with specific responsibilities for young carers and we will make sure all pupils know who this is
- Ensure all children are aware of what a young carer is and we will do this through assemblies and our 'Jigsaw' PSHE sessions
- Give information to the young person about young carers and their parents about what support is available in Surrey
- Consider alternatives and be flexible when responding to the needs of young carers. This may include (but is not limited to) access to a telephone at break times; negotiable deadlines for homework or to do homework at school if this is preferable; offer alternative lunchtime provision such as access to our Thrive room and its resources.

4. Links with other policies

- Child Protection and safeguarding
- Special educational needs and disability
- Personal, social and health education
- Teaching and learning
- Curriculum
- Equal opportunities
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Anti-bullying