



St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Young Carers Policy

2025 - 2028

This policy should be read in line with our schools' vision statement, '**Living and Learning Together with God's Help**', as it encompasses everything that we do. It stems from the Christian belief that all children are to believe in themselves, *being a unique human being, made by God and Loved by him*, and so develop a love of lifelong learning and a sense of community, as we grow together as part of God's family; being with God and having his help as we live and learn together in all that we are and seek to be.

1. Definition of a Young Carer

Young Carers are children or young people, under the age of 18 years old, who look after someone who has a disability, long-term illness, mental health problem, or a problem with drugs or alcohol.

Young Carers may be taking care of a parent, brother, sister or any other family member or close friend. Caring may take the form of personal care, domestic chores, giving medication, help to fill in forms, giving reminders of what to do and when, supervision, emotional or communication support.

2. Young Carers at St Leonards

At St Leonard's CE Primary Academy, we believe that all young people have the right to an education. If a young person looks after someone, we know that they may need additional support to help them get the most out of their education, and we aim to meet all their needs.

All staff at St Leonard's are sensitive towards Young Carer's needs, and aim to show discretion. We will respect the privacy of Young Carers and will only share information with people who need to know, in order to maintain safety and gain the correct support. We also recognise that there may be Young Carers in our school that we do not know about because they or their families may not want to identify as Young Carers.

We can put anyone in touch with our local Young Carers and other support services where necessary.



3. Attendance

We do expect all our children to attend registration and lessons on time, every school day, but will be supportive of any Young Carer who is late into school due to caring responsibilities at home in the mornings. A scheme/plan will be put into place so the Young Carer will not feel pressured or anxious because they are late. We provide reasonable flexibility on attendance if absence is due to providing emergency care or a bereavement.

In the event of emergency care being required, school will liaise with all agencies to ensure that absence from school is kept to a minimum. Where/when the Young Carer is unable to get into school then a range of school work will be sent home.

4. Additional provision

St Leonard's will ensure that any Young Carer will be offered a range of interventions to support their academic needs.

Extra time will be allocated for homework deadlines where the class teacher sees this is necessary.

We will assist parents with disabilities and health problems to access parent's evenings in a way that meets their needs or offer an alternative.

We will ensure that all Young Carer's are considered for all after school activities and will try and offer alternative times for these activities, during the day, if they cannot be attended after school due to their caring roles.

Sessions on Young Carers will be taught during PSHE and Citizenship programmes for each year group to help raise awareness and give pupils the understanding of what a young carer is, the rights they have and the support that is available to them.