



# Young Carers Policy

Bramley Church of England Infant and Nursery School

**Policy effective from** June 2021

**Approved by** Headteacher

**Last reviewed on** June 2018

**Next review due by** June 2024

## Version history

Version	Description of change	Author	Approved
2.0	Reformatting and standardisation of language.	Shona Taylor	Headteacher, June 2021
1.0	Original version.	Elaine Spick	Headteacher, June 2018

## **Introduction**

Bramley Church of England Infant and Nursery School (the School) believes that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of their home circumstances.

The School acknowledges that there are likely to be Young Carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer could have an adverse effect on a young person's education.

The School has adopted this Young Carers policy so that it will be able to relieve some of the worries, which Young Carers may have about their home circumstances and their school work, and show that it believes that Young Carers' education is important.

## **Who are Young Carers?**

Young Carers are children and young people whose lives are affected by looking after someone at home. They are carrying out tasks and responsibilities, which are additional to those appropriate for their age. The person they look after may have one or more of the following:

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

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

Young Carers' responsibilities may include:

- Personal care (e.g. bathing, dressing, feeding)
- Giving or prompting medication/injections
- Shopping
- Housework
- Emotional support
- Looking after younger siblings

Young Carers can feel tired, worried and isolated. Their social life is often restricted with few opportunities for fun and after school activities.

## **Factors which may indicate that a young person is caring include:**

- Illness or disability in the family
- Being late or absent (due to caring responsibilities at home)
- Assuming a parental role to other siblings
- Poor concentration and/or often tired
- Academic performance below potential

- Home learning often uncompleted
- Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
- Not making use of out of school activities
- Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a safe environment
- Behavioural problems
- Limited contact with school by parents

If the School believes that someone is a Young Carer members of staff will be sensitive when approaching them about this, as it is appreciated that they may not want their peers to know. Before passing this information on to relevant colleagues, members of staff will obtain the consent of the Young Carer.

## **Support Offered**

The School will:

- Designate a member of staff with specific responsibilities for Young Carers. This person is the Headteacher who would consult with the Home School Link Worker (HSLW). The names of staff members currently filling these roles can be found in the staff overview document which is available on the school website.
- Apply for the child to become a Surrey Young Carer.
- Give age-appropriate information to the young person about Young Carers and what information and support is available.
- Liaise with appropriate agencies i.e. Surrey Young Carers.
- Consider alternatives and be flexible when responding to the needs of Young Carers This may include, negotiable deadlines, ELSA, completing homework e.g. reading at school with a member of staff.