St Mary's CE Primary School, Burnham on Crouch

Young Carers Statement

Who are Young Carers?
The Children and Families Act 2014 definition says that a young carer is "A person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person." This can include caring for parents, grandparents and/or siblings. The person they care for may live with a physical condition or something more hidden, such as a mental health problem, an addiction, or neurodiversity. They might help with shopping, cooking and cleaning; managing medicines or money; providing personal care and/or emotional support; and may need to look after other siblings.

Our School
We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well at school and at St Mary's CE Primary School we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified and supported effectively. We aim to understand the issues faced by young carers and to raise awareness and support the particular needs that young carers may have. We aspire to provide a safe and supportive environment for those students who may have more responsibility at home than their peers.

- We have members of staff with special responsibility for young carers.
- We proactively identify young carers and raise awareness of the issues they face.
- We provide training and information for staff on the identification of young carers and signpost them to the relevant support.
- We work closely with Essex Young Carers Service and can put pupils and their families in touch with them and their support services.
- We provide a safe and confidential space for young carers to meet regularly with a member of staff to discuss issues and offer emotional support.
- We welcome visits from Young Carers Project to work with pupils referred for support and can provide a safe space for 1:1 support sessions.

- We consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role.
- We seek to provide alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend school because of their caring commitment.
- We provide information on our support for young carers on our school website for current and prospective pupils and parents.
- We have information about young carers available at prospective open days, and proactively ask about caring responsibilities during the admissions process.
- We respect each student's right to privacy as a young carer and will only share information on a need-to-know basis.

At St Mary's CE Primary School, we are committed to meeting the needs of our young carers so that they can attend and enjoy school. We are committed to overcoming barriers to learning and help raise attendance and attainment of young carers.

The team you can contact regarding any support or help needed for young carers are:

- **Mrs Macartney, Head Teacher**
- **Mrs Finch, SENCo**
- **Mrs Speller, Class teacher**
- **Mrs Cambridge, St Mary's Link Governor**

As a school we are committed to only sharing information with professionals on a need to know basis in order to support pupils and they families, to help them become the best they can be.

As a school we seek feedback and ideas from young carers and their families in order to improve the help and support we can offer.

We have a good referral system in place and contacts with external agencies such as the school nurse, Action for Carers and Essex Young Carers.

We aim to improve our work with young carers all the time.

If you think your child might be a young carer, or could be affected by any of the issues we have highlighted please contact us on **01621 782626** to speak to us directly.

Any information that is given to us will be treated sensitively and no information will be shared without your knowledge.