

Young Carer's Policy



“Doing our best for God”

At St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home.

When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability, mental ill health and/or substance misuse, they may need a little extra support to help them get the most out of school. Our young Carers policy says how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home.

Our School:

- ⊕ Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help. This identified person is Mrs. Duke, who can put young carers in touch with The Young Carers team at Blackpool Carers Centre.
- ⊕ We can also help support families to access other support services and can assist in referring them to available services.
- ⊕ Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings.
- ⊕ Respects their right to privacy and will only share information about them, and their family, with people who need to know in order to help them.
- ⊕ Will consider how we can support young carers who may be unable to attend after school and out of school activities e.g., Booster classes, choir, extra curriculum clubs.
- ⊕ St Bernadette's works in partnership with Blackpool Young Carers Centre - the identified Young Carers support worker is Samantha Kirkbride - who runs monthly afternoon drop-in sessions for children, parents/carers and staff. St Bernadette's is working in partnership to develop a Young Carers after school club. Young carers will be encouraged to take an active part in deciding how and what the club should offer.
- ⊕ Samantha and the young carers will present an annual whole school assembly to tell the school about Young Carers. This will enable children to understand that some of their peers may be young carers and enable children to recognise if they or their friends may be young carers.
- ⊕ Blackpool Young carers centre will support the school with ongoing training for school staff to be able to identify and support young carers.
- ⊕ The school keeps up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting young carers and their families.
- ⊕ The school uses the curriculum to promote a full understanding, acceptance of, and respect for, issues such as caring, disability, impairment and mental health, for example, embedding the challenges faced by young carers into PSHE education lessons curriculum.
- ⊕ A young carer's privacy is respected and information about them or their caring role is not communicated in front of their peers.

- **Signed:** *Denise Duke* (Senior Family Support Worker/DSL)
- **Date:** October 2021
- **Review date:** October 2022