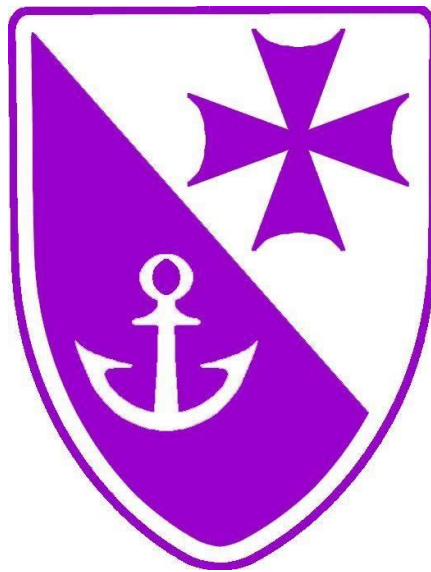


Young Carer Policy

Bethany CE Junior School



Approved by:	J Winsotn	Date: September 2023
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Last reviewed on:	September 2023
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Next review due by:	September 2026
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General Introduction:

This policy supports the work of the school in promoting its mission statement, aims and values.

Our Mission:

Inspiring Learning for Life - Hope for the Future

Our Vision:

God's hope in us to make a difference:

For ourselves

For each other

For the world

School aim

Our aim is to enable each child to succeed in school and life and develop a lifelong passion for learning.

We are ambitious for all our children and adapt our high challenge curriculum where appropriate to meet individual needs. Through promotion of our core Christian values of compassion, creativity, confidence and curiosity, we encourage our children to develop strong morals, high aspirations and resilience to cope with life's challenges.

How Bethany help and support Young Carers:

- We believe that all children should have access to education and be given the support necessary to minimise the impact of anything that is happening at home.
- We seek to ensure that no child is taking on inappropriate or excessive caring responsibilities.
- We are passionate about giving our Young Carers regular opportunities to enjoy carefree, fun, childhood experiences. We work closely with local charities in order to achieve this goal: Honey Pot, Variety Club, Rotary and My Time. Some of our Young Carers are formally registered with Bournemouth Young Carers Group.
- We have designated staff members with specific responsibility for Young Carers.
- As a team we keep up to date with national and local developments and with legislation and guidance affecting Young Carers and their families. We ensure that our Young Carers know how to access support from staff in the school.
- We consider alternatives and aim to be flexible when responding to the needs of our Young Carers and their families.
- Young Carers are respected: A Young Carers privacy is respected and information about them or their caring role is not communicated in front of their peers. A family's privacy is protected and the school only shares information with others on a 'need to know' basis in order to better support the children and their families. We view Young Carers as any other pupil, but we understand that they have additional pressure of caring responsibilities and so aim to minimise the impact of this on learning.

- During transition we will share agreed information with the new school.

Who are Young Carers?

- Young Carers are children and young people under the age of 18 years old who provide regular and ongoing care to a family member. The person they look after may have one or more of the following:
 1. Physical Disability
 2. Mental Ill health
 3. Learning difficulties
 4. Substance misuse
 5. Long-term or chronic illness
- The person that they care for may be a parent, sibling or grandparent and the care they give may be practical and/or emotional. Their responsibilities may include:
 1. Personal care (e.g bathing, dressing, feeding)
 2. Giving or reminding about medication/injections
 3. Shopping
 4. Household chores (e.g cooking, washing, hoovering)
 5. Emotional support
 6. Looking after younger siblings
 7. Budgeting and paying bills

Factors that might indicate that a child is in a caring role:

- Known/disclosed illness or disability within the family
 - Being late or absent regularly (this child could be in a caring role at home)
 - Assuming a parental role to other siblings
 - Often tired
 - Poor concentration
 - Academic performance noted to be below 'potential'
 - Homework often late or not done at all
 - Isolation from peers or problems interacting with peers
 - Not making use of after school clubs and activities
 - Mature and responsible but maybe 'letting go' and behaving immaturely when in a safe environment
 - Behavioural problems
 - Limited contact with school by parents
- Reducing barriers to education:
- The school will ensure that intervention is targeted and Young Carers are supported, are able to grow and enjoy life to the full.
 - Some Young Carers may benefit from having support plans in place. If this is the case then these will be reviewed with them regularly.
 - Where appropriate the school will negotiate deadlines, allow Young Carers to check in with home by phone during break times, problem solve ways of supporting parents who find it difficult to get in to school and support children who bring younger siblings in to school to be on time for their own learning to begin.
 - The school will use, monitor and evaluate data for this group carefully to

ensure that children are making expected progress towards learning targets.