



OUR LADY  
AND ST HUBERT'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# YOUNG CARERS POLICY 2022-2024

At Our Lady and St. Hubert's, home, school and parish work together, knowing that God is with us in all we do.

# OLSH Young Carers Policy

In accordance with our Mission Statement

*'At Our Lady & St. Hubert's, home, school and parish work together as we grow and learn, knowing that God is with us in all we do'.*

**Date: February 2022**

**Review date: February 2024**

At OLSH's we believe that all children and young people have the right to learn, enjoy and achieve, regardless of what is happening at home. We have developed our Young Carers Policy to show how we will support any pupil who helps to look after someone at home and to demonstrate how we will try to relieve some of the worries which young carers have about home and their school work.

**Defining a Young Carer:** A young person under 18 years of age who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill or has a substance misuse problem. Caring can involve physical or emotional care, or being responsible for someone's safety and wellbeing. The level of responsibility assumed by a young carer is often inappropriate to their age and beyond the level of simply helping out at home as part of the process of growing up.

OLSH's acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on their education. Young carer's might experience:

- Being late or absent because of responsibilities at home
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Tiredness in school
- Lack of time for homework
- Poor attainment
- Becoming angry or frustrated
- Isolation –feeling no-one understands
- Bullying and low self-esteem

## IDENTIFYING YOUNG CARERS

During the school enrolment process for new pupils, the school will:

- Identify parents or family members who have disabilities or other long-term physical/mental health conditions.
- Clarify whether the pupil has caring responsibilities. Identify whether the young carer has any additional needs that need to be supported.
- Establish individual pupil plans to recognise the child's specific needs as a young carer.

Where appropriate, a young carer may be referred to the LA or other support agencies for a need's assessment. Our Lady and St Hubert's will continuously bear in mind that where a parent has a disability, mental health or substance abuse issue, the pupil might be the carer whilst showing none of the indicative signs of a young carer.

## **We will**

- Have designated member of staff with special responsibility for young carers – Pastoral Lead
- Let all new pupils know who the designated member of staff are
- Put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service
- Run PSHE lessons on the challenges faced by young carers
  
- Respect the right to privacy and only share information with people who need to know in order to help young carer
  
- Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
  
- Allow young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtime
  
- Ensure that staff are aware of the warning signs which may indicate that a pupil is a young carer
  
- Be accessible to parents/carers who have mobility/communication difficulties and involve them in parents evening etc.

Signed (Principal):



Signed (Chair of Local Governing Body):



Ratified at LGB meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022