



# Young Carers Policy

*Maximum Effort for Maximum Achievement*



## **Introduction**

Buttsbury Junior School has developed this young carer policy to recognise, promote and support children who are identified as young carers as we believe that all children have a right to an education. When a young person cares for someone in their family, they may need extra support to help to ensure they achieve their potential.

## **Defining a Young Carer**

A young carer is a child or young person under the age of 18 who helps to look after a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally ill, has old age or has a substance misuse problem. The level of responsibility assumed by a young carer is often disproportionate to their age and at a level beyond simply 'helping out' with jobs at home, which are a normal part of growing up. These responsibilities may include:

- Nursing care
- Personal intimate care
- Emotional care
- Domestic care
- Financial care
- Child care

## **Identifying a Young Carer**

Buttsbury Junior School recognises that the impacts of being a young carer may have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience:

- Regular lateness or unauthorised absences, possibly increasing periodically
- Tiredness during the school day
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school
- Emotional distress
- Erratic response to homework with incomplete, late or non-compliance to set tasks
- Under achievement
- Behavioural problems
- False signs of maturity
- Isolation – a lack of peer friendships
- Lack of time/interest in extra-curricular activities – especially after school
- Being the victim of bullying
- Low self esteem

It also might be difficult to engage the child's parents e.g. unable to attend Parents' Evenings.

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Should a member of staff be concerned for a child's welfare – including, but not exclusively due to the reasons listed above – then it must be brought to the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Leader (Mrs Robinson), in line with the school's safeguarding policy.

A referral to request support for a young carer can be made through Essex Young Carer Services via their website or email:

<https://forms.essex.gov.uk/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=VxC8Pwm6m3H&HideAll=1young.carers@essex.gov.uk>

### **School Support for identified Your Carers**

At Buttsbury Junior School we acknowledge that every child is unique and in order for those considered to be young carers to have equal access to education, we will provide personalised support.

Buttsbury Junior School will:

- Have a designated member of staff - our Inclusion Manager (Mrs Cheesman) - to support young carers. They will be the point of contact for young carers and their families and will liaise with relevant colleagues within school and the appropriate external services.
- Respect young carers' right to privacy and wherever possible, staff will talk to young carers in private unless the carer asks for a friend to be present.
- Treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensure that young carers can access all appropriate support services in school.
- Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to inappropriate levels of caring.
- Promote discussion and learning within the curriculum and assemblies related to promoting understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.
- Liaise with support services to ensure that families can be advised where additional help may be viable to them.
- If a parent is unable to travel to attend parents' meetings due to family circumstances, school staff will try to make reasonable alternative arrangements.
- Provide access to weekly homework club.
- Where appropriate, negotiate reasonable adjustments to homework submission deadlines, at times of need.
- Provide extra-curricular activities within the school day to enable young carers to engage with their peers.
- Provide regular training opportunities and updates for all staff.
- Provide effective support with transitions to and from our school.
- Provide telephone access during break and lunchtimes to telephone home, should young carers require this.

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## **Further Information**

Further information and support relating to young carers can be found at:

### **Essex Young Carer, part of the Essex Youth Service**

<https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/young-carers/youngcarers@carerschoices.org>

### **SIBS (For Brothers and Sisters of disabled children and adults)**

<https://www.sibs.org.uk/>

### **Action for Family Carers**

<https://affc.org.uk/>

### **SNAP Charity**

<https://www.snapcharity.org/>

## **Monitoring and Review**

Policy Date: Spring Term 2021

Review Date: Spring Term 2024