ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Young Carers Policy

March 2026

Our Mission Statement

The Mission of St. John's Catholic Primary School is to grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus by being: responsible, caring, prayerful, creative, independent, thoughtful, curious and respectful. We live our Mission by:

- Ensuring that our attitudes and values are transmitted through a curriculum that is consistent with the Catholic faith
- Delivering a curriculum that is relevant, varied, interesting, stimulating, balanced and appropriate
- Developing policies and schemes of work which recognise that R.E. is an integral part of the curriculum
- Developing sound teaching and effective classroom management
- Generating a positive attitude to learning where realistic expectations of pupils and high standards of work are expected
- Using a variety of teaching approaches that reflect the needs of individual pupils
- Participating in projects which focus on the needs of others including local and international charities.

• St. John's is a Catholic voluntary aided primary school, established by the Church to serve the parishes of St. John the Baptist, Trowbridge, St. Bernadette, Westbury and St. Thomas More, Bradford on Avon.

Introduction
St John's Catholic Primary School is committed to supporting young carers to access education.
This policy aims to ensure young carers at St John's are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.
St John's Catholic Primary School works closely with Wilts Young Carers and currently have 1 child registered as a Young Carer.

Definition
A young carer is a child or young person who is helping to look after someone at home. Most are caring for a parent, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one family member. The person they look after will have one or more of:

- Physical disability (including sensory disability).
- Learning disability.
- Mental health problem.
- Chronic illness.
- Substance misuse problem.

Caring Tasks
A young carer will take on additional responsibilities to those appropriate to their age and development. A young carer might be providing the main care or share responsibilities with another family member. The caring tasks that a young carer has to deal with can range from:

- Nursing care – giving medication, injections, changing dressings, assisting with mobility etc.
- Personal intimate care – washing, dressing, feeding and helping with toilet requirements.
- Emotional care – being compliant, monitoring the emotional state of the person cared for, listening, being a shoulder to cry on, supporting a parent through depression and trying to cheer them up.
- Domestic care – doing a substantial amount of housework, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry etc.
- Financial care – running the household, bill paying, benefit collection etc.
- Child care - taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities.

Possible Effect on Education
St John's Catholic Primary School acknowledges that there are likely to be young carers among its pupils, and that being a young carer can have an adverse effect on a young person's education. Because of their responsibilities at home, a young carer might experience.

- Being late or absent due to responsibilities at home.
- Concentration problems, anxiety or worry in school.
- Emotional distress.
- Tiredness in school.
- Lack of time for homework.
- Poor attainment.
- Physical problems such a back pain from lifting.
- False signs of maturity, because of assuming adult roles.
- Behavioural problems (taking out their anger or frustration).
- Lack of time for extra-curricular activities.
- Isolation, embarrassed to take friends home.
- Limited social skills.

- Bullying.
- Feeling that no one understands and that no support is available.
- Low self-esteem.

It also might be difficult to engage their parents (due to fears about child being taken into care, fears about their condition being misunderstood or their parenting skills being called in to question). They may be unable to attend parents' evenings.

Support Offered
St John's acknowledges that young carers may need extra support to ensure they have equal access to education. Through this policy, we want to give the message that young carers' education is important. The Young Carers Lead (Mrs Hayley Warren) will meet with the Inclusion Lead (Mrs O'Mahony). She will liaise with relevant colleagues and agencies with the consent of the Young Carer and parent and in conjunction with the Inclusion Lead.

St John's Catholic Primary School will:

- Provide young carers with opportunities to speak to someone in private and will not discuss their situation in front of their peers.
- Appreciate that young carers will not discuss their family situation unless they feel comfortable. The young person's caring role will be acknowledged and respected.
- Treat young carers in a sensitive and child-centred way, upholding confidentiality.
- Ensure young carers can access all available support services in school.
- Follow child protection procedures regarding any young carer at risk of significant harm due to appropriate levels of caring.
- Promote discussion and learning in all areas of the curriculum to facilitate fuller understanding, acceptance of and respect for, the issues surrounding illness, disability and caring.
- Provide staff access to information and training to enable them to recognise indications that a child has a caring responsibility.
- Refer the child to Wiltshire Young Carers for additional support if this is appropriate.
- Identify young carers as a vulnerable group and log status on SIMS.
- Discuss Young Carers as a vulnerable group at Pupil Progress Meetings.

In addition St John's will recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers. Available provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Negotiable deadlines for homework (when needed).
- Access to Homework clubs (where they are available).
- Arrangements for schoolwork to be sent home (when there is a genuine crisis). Any approved absence for a young carer will be time limited. (DFES 2006).
- Access for parents with impaired mobility.
- Alternative communication options for parents who are sensory impaired or housebound.
- Advice to parents if there are difficulties in transporting a young carer to school.

Succession Planning
If the Young Carer Lead leaves post a new lead will be appointed within one term.

Further Information
Further information can be found at:

www.carersupportwiltshire.co.uk / young-carer

This policy has been approved and adopted by the Governing Body.

Head teacher: Mrs K O'Rourke

Chair of Governors: Mrs C Doogue

Review cycle:	3 years
Next review due:	March 2029