



St Bartholomew's  
Primary Academy

Hand in hand we learn, we grow, we soar

## Young Carers Policy

**Policy Date: September 2024**

**Review Date: September 2026**

**Headteacher signature:**

*J. Oake* 26/11/24

**Chair of Governors signature:**

*Clerson* 26/11/24.

St Bartholomew's Primary Academy  
The Rosary, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8AZ  
01793 853288  
[enquiries@st-bartholomews.dsat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-bartholomews.dsat.org.uk)



## Our Mission

At St Bartholomew's, our mission is to provide the best education for each individual child within a Christian environment. We will do this by providing a firm spiritual foundation, based on Christian values, beliefs and principles, and by equipping all pupils with the skills and enthusiasm for learning which will serve them throughout their school lives and beyond.

We provide a safe and secure, caring and happy, welcoming, innovative and inspiring environment, with an enriched curriculum, where children will recognise and achieve their fullest potential, enabling them to grow as responsible citizens.

Our aspiration is that children will leave our school with:

- **A set of spiritual and Christian values - honesty, integrity and responsibility.**
- **A variety of skills - linguistic, mathematical, scientific, artistic, physical and social.**
- **An enquiring and discriminating mind with a desire for knowledge and a life-long love of learning.**
- **Strong self-esteem and high personal expectations.**
- **Understanding and respect for others.**

## Introduction

St Bartholomew's Primary Academy is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers at St Bartholomew's Primary Academy are identified and offered appropriate support to access the education to which they are entitled.

## 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, commonly in a single parent family, 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 Bartholomew's Primary Academy 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 as 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 into question). Parents may be unable to attend parent(s) evenings.

## **Support Offered**

St Bartholomew's Primary Academy 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 school has a designated 'Young Carers Lead' who is the main contact for the Young Carers in the school. The Young Carers Lead will meet with the Young Carers on a regular basis and will liaise with the teacher responsible for Vulnerable Groups. The Young Carers Lead will liaise with relevant colleagues and agencies with the consent of the Young Carer and parent(s).

### **St Bartholomew's Primary Academy 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 inappropriate 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.

In addition, St Bartholomew's Primary Academy will recognise that flexibility may be needed when responding to the needs of young carers.

**Available provision includes (but is not limited to):**

- Access to a telephone during breaks and lunchtime, to phone home.
- Negotiable deadlines for homework/coursework (when needed).
- Access to homework clubs (where these 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.

**Further Information**

Further information can be found at the Swindon Advice and Support Centre

Swindon Carers Centre, Sanford House, Swindon, SN1 1QH. 01793 401092.

<https://www.swindoncarers.org.uk/young-carers-support-in-swindon/>