



Buckland Primary School



Young Carers Policy

Believe, Excel, Strive, Together

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| Date of Policy | February 2021 | Shared with: |
| Written by | R Hutton and E Hawthorn | Staff, governors, parents and pupils |

Buckland Primary School is committed to supporting young carers to access education. This policy aims to ensure young carers at Buckland Primary School 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 (under 18 years old) who is caring for a family member or friend. This may be at home, but could also be a person who lives away from the family home. Most are caring for a parent, but some may be taking responsibility for a sibling, grandparent or other relative. It may also be the case that the young carer is looking after a family friend.

In some instances, a young carer may care for more than one person. The person(s) they look after will have one or more of:

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

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
- **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 on a regular basis
- **Financial care** - running the household, bill paying, benefit collection or arranging meetings
- **Child care** - taking responsibility for younger siblings in addition to their other caring responsibilities

At Buckland Primary School, we believe that all children and young people have the right to an education, regardless of what is happening at home.

When a young person looks after someone in their family who has a serious illness, disability or substance misuse problem, he or she may need extra support to help him or her get the most out of school.

Our Young Carers Policy says how we will help any pupil who helps to look after someone at home, or elsewhere, in order to break barriers to learning and improve educational outcomes.

Our school:

- Has a member of staff with special responsibility for young carers and lets all new pupils know who they are and what they can do to help. At Buckland this person is Mrs Emma Hawthorn.
- Can put young carers in touch with the local Young Carers Service. We can also put families in touch with other support services. As a school we can help families with a referral or families can refer themselves.
- Is accessible to parents who have mobility and communication difficulties and involves them in parents' evenings.
- Respects your right to privacy and will only share information about you and your family with people who need to know to help you.
- Will consider alternatives if a young carer is unable to attend out of school activities e.g. extra-curricular activities, sports coaching, concerts, due to their caring role
- Allows young carers to telephone home during breaks and lunchtimes where appropriate
- Ensure staff are trained to identify vulnerable pupils in their care and take appropriate actions to support their academic and emotional wellbeing
- Complies with the Disability Discrimination Act by offering disabled parents support to get their children into school
- Aims to breakdown barriers that hinder a young carers attendance, learning, home learning and progress by offering support and assistance where possible

Further information and support can be obtained by contacting the school Welfare Officer and Deputy DSL:
Emma Hawthorn

Inclusion@bucklandprimary.surrey.sch.uk

01784 455022

Useful Signposting

Surrey Young Carers Support

Contact them on: syc@actionforcarers.org.uk

or visit their website www.surrey-youngcarers.org.uk



NHS Support

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/support-and-benefits-for-carers/being-a-young-carer-your-rights/>

Carers Trust

<https://carers.org/about-caring/about-young-carers>

Barnardo's

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/helping-families/young-carers>