



17 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Identifying and supporting young carers at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading**

At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading we are aware that some of our pupils are young carers. A young carer is someone under 18 who is caring unpaid for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. Research suggests there are at least 700,000 young carers in the UK, but many do not realise they are a young carer.

We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well at school. At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified, and supported effectively.

As Maiden Erlegh School in Reading's Young Carers' Lead I have responsibility for ensuring all young carers are able to enjoy school and make good progress. If you think your child might be a young carer, or could be affected by any of the issues we have highlighted, please let me know by completing the form below and returning it to school in a sealed envelope addressed to me. If you do not feel comfortable doing this, or have any further questions, please contact me on [MERyoungcareers@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:MERyoungcareers@maidenerleghtrust.org) to speak to me directly.

Any information that is given to us will be treated sensitively and no information will be shared without your knowledge.

Yours sincerely

Miss N Hancock  
Head of Year 11 and Young Carers Lead

***Please return to Miss Hancock via Reception***

Does the pupil have parents or other family members who have a long-term illness or disability, or who are affected by mental ill-health or substance misuse?

Yes

No

If you wish, you can give further details here: (not required)

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Would you like more information about the types of support the school provides to young carers?

Yes

No

Please provide a name and telephone number or email address so that we can contact you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/email address: \_\_\_\_\_