



7 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Maiden Erlegh School in Reading wins award for young carer support



I am delighted to inform you that Maiden Erlegh School in Reading, has been given a Silver award for our work to ensure that students don't miss out on an education because they are young carers.

The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award. The award is given by the Carers Trust ([www.carers.org](http://www.carers.org)) which is the UK's largest charity providing services to unpaid carers, young carers and young adult carers. supporting over 465,000 carers across the UK, including over 30,000 young carers.

To achieve the Silver Award, the school has demonstrated that it supports young carers in many ways, including awareness raising with pupils and staff, and by building links within the local community. Young carers are consulted with, and vital information is made available to pupils and families, letting them know where to go for help."

Young carers are responsible for emotional, practical or physical care for a parent, sibling or other family member who has a physical disability, mental health issue or substance misuse issue. The 2011 Census statistics revealed that there are just over 166,000 young carers in England, but research reveals that this is just the tip of the iceberg. The true figure could be closer to 800,000 young carers in England, equivalent to one in 5 secondary aged school children many of whom are unrecognised and unsupported.

Research carried out by Carers Trust and The Children's Society shows that, on average, young carers miss or cut short 48 school days a year and often have lower levels of self-confidence, mental wellbeing and significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level, because of their caring role.

Giles Meyer, Chief Executive of Carers Trust, today congratulated Award-winning schools, saying:

*"The Young Carers in Schools programme is helping to transform schools and support staff across England. Schools play a vital role in a young carer's life, as many care for relatives without their teachers even knowing what they do. On average young carers will miss a day of school each month as a result of their caring role, so the steps schools take to identify and support them can have a huge impact on their learning, wellbeing and life chances."*

We are incredibly proud of this achievement. Whilst the entire staff team has been working on our support, special mention must go to Miss Hancock, Head of Year 11, and Mrs Teale, inclusion mentor, for their leadership of this vital work.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Johnson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Mr A Johnson**  
Headteacher