



21 September 2022

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 via the school office MERoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org and I will contact you.

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

The school receives extra funding for each child/young person eligible for free schools' meals, which can be put towards extra support and provision for young carers. It is therefore, important that children are registered for free school meals, even if they do not want, or need the school meal.

Yours sincerely

Miss N Hancock
Head of Year 8 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)

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: _____