

3 September 2025

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 students are young carers. A young carer is someone under 18, who is unpaid and cares for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. These students 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 this is what they are.

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 these students are identified and supported effectively.

As Maiden Erlegh School in Reading's 'Young Carers' Lead', I have responsibility for ensuring all these students enjoy school and make good progress. If you think your child may fall into this category 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 reply.

Any information given will be treated with sensitivity, and no information will be shared without your knowledge.

Yours sincerely



Miss N Hancock
Head of Computer Science and Young Carers Lead



Please return to Miss Hancock via Reception

Student Name _____

Does the above student 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 (please circle as appropriate)

If you wish, you can give further details here (optional):

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

Yes No (please circle as appropriate)

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

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

and / or

Email address: _____

