



ST. MATTHEW'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Voluntary Academy

11 March 2022

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s),

Identifying and supporting young carers at St Matthew's RC High School.

At St. Matthew's 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, suffers from mental health or addiction.** 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 extra support to both enjoy and make good progress at school. At St. Matthew's we are committed in our responsibility to ensure that all pupils who are young carers are identified and supported effectively.

If you think your child might be a young carer, or could be affected by any of the issues we've highlighted, please let me know by completing the form below and returning in a sealed envelope addressed to myself. If you do not feel comfortable doing this, or have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on youngcarers@smrchs.com or 0161 6816178 where you can speak to me directly. Any information received will be treated sensitively and in the strictest confidence. No information will be shared without your knowledge.

St. Matthew's receives additional funding for each pupil eligible for free school meals, which can be used providing the necessary extra support and provision for young carers. It is therefore important that all eligible pupils are registered for free school meals, even if families do not want, or need this support. For more information on how to apply and how this funding is allocated please visit the school's website www.smrchs.com.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Latham
Student Welfare Manager

Pupil's name: _____

Form: _____

Does the pupil have a parent(s) or other family members who have a long-term illness or disability, or who are affected by mental ill-health or substance misuse? (please circle)

Yes No

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

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: _____