

Dear Parents/Carers,

Identifying and supporting young carers at Vernon Park Primary School

At Vernon Park, we are aware that some of our pupils are young carers. A young carer is someone under 25 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 over 750,000 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 Vernon Park, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified, and supported effectively.

As Vernon Park'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've highlighted, please let me know. If you have any further questions, please contact me on 0161 480 4378 or katy.mickle@vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk 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.

The school receives extra funding for each child/young person eligible for free school 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. For more information on how this money is spent please visit the school's website <https://www.vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk/>

Young Carers in Stockport are supported by Signpost Young Carers.

They are a charity who work with young people aged 6 to 25 in Stockport who care for a member of the family. They can offer support in the following ways:

- Centre Based Evening Groups
- Evening Activity Groups
- Short Breaks
- School Support service
- One to One sessions
- Family support service
- Play Therapy
- Counselling service

A referral to the service would be required if you feel your child would benefit from this. We can complete this referral for you if needed.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Katy Mickle
Assistant Head Teacher and Inclusion Manager