



9 January 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Identifying and supporting Young Carers at Maiden Erlegh School**

At Maiden Erlegh 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 be successful at school and as Maiden Erlegh's Young Carers lead I have the responsibility for ensuring they are supported in this. If you think your child might be a Young Carer or could be affected by any of the issues highlighted above, please let me know by completing the reply link below **by Friday 30 January 2026**. This is also an opportunity for you to update any details about the care your child is providing even if we are already aware of their Young Carer status.

#### [Identifying and supporting Young Carers at Maiden Erlegh School - Reply Form](#)

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 if they are entitled to them, even if they do not want, or need the school meal. Please contact me at school if you think you may be eligible.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on the following email address: [mesyoungcarers@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:mesyoungcarers@maidenerleghtrust.org)

Yours sincerely

Mrs I Yakhya  
English Teacher and Advocate for Young Carers

