

## R A Butler Infant & Junior Academy

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Emma Vincent

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September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

At R A Butler Academy, we are aware that some of our pupils are Young Carers. Young Carers are children under 18 who are caring, unpaid, for a family member or friend who is physically or mentally ill, frail, disabled or has a dependency on alcohol or drugs. 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 and at R A Butler Academy we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are Young Carers are identified and supported effectively. We aim to understand the issues faced by Young Carers and we are working to raise awareness and support the particular needs that Young Carers may have and aim to provide a safe and supportive environment for those students who may have more responsibility at home than their peers.

For example:

- We have a member of staff who, as the schools Young Carer Lead, has a special responsibility for Young Carers.
- We work closely with Essex Young Carers Service and can put students and their families in touch with them and their support services.
- We can provide students with confidential support and advice in school.
- We respect each student's right to privacy as a Young Carer and will only share information on a need-to-know basis.

The R A Butler Academy Young Carers' Lead has a responsibility for ensuring all Young Carers are able to enjoy school and make good progress and works in conjunction with the Deputy Headteacher for Inclusion.

If you think your child might be a Young Carer, or could be affected by any of the issues highlighted or have any further questions, please contact Debbie Jenkins by email [admin@rab.academy](mailto:admin@rab.academy) and she can arrange to speak to you directly. Any information that is given to the school will be treated sensitively and no information will be shared without your knowledge.

At R A Butler our Young Carers have named their group 'Chicken Dippers'. The children enjoy the support they receive from the adults and their peers.

*"Being a Young Carer means I have a responsibility to take care of someone and Chicken Dippers is a place with other people who have that responsibility too. It makes me feel happy to be going as I love doing all the activities and everyone who goes has a voice." Year 4 child*

*"I like going to Chicken Dipper's because it is a fun and exciting place to be and I feel like I can express myself and talk about things." Year 6*