

## **St Thomas' CE Primary School Heaton Chapel, Stockport wins award for young carer support**

A Stockport primary school, St Thomas' CE Heaton Chapel, has been given a prestigious Gold award for their work to make sure students do not miss out on an education because they are young carers. They are only the second primary school in the North West to be presented with the award.

The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award.

Stockport local comedian, Jason Manford, proudly presented the school with their award.

"We are so proud to be holders of this award. It is very gratifying that our commitment to young carers has been rewarded and recognised."

Louise Loynes, Headteacher. "Our pastoral lead, Emma Boardman has worked extremely hard ensuring the needs of our young carers are met and that the children's emotional and educational welfare has been raised to the highest standard."

Young carers are responsible for emotional, practical or physical care for a parent, sibling or other family member who has a physical disability, mental health issue or substance misuse issue. The 2021 Census statistics revealed that there are just over 120,000 young carers in England, but research reveals that this is just the tip of the iceberg. The true figure could be closer to 800,000 young carers in England, equivalent to one in 5 secondary aged school children many of whom are unrecognised and unsupported.

"To achieve their Gold Award St Thomas CE Primary school Heaton Chapel has demonstrated that it is actively working with young carers and their families to reduce the caring roles of these young people. Young carers are included in school improvement plans, and are considered at every level of the school." The Children's Society

Headteacher Louise Loynes, Pastoral lead Emma Boardman, Jason Manford

