



Barley Fields Primary School

Working with Separated Parents Policy 2024

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Prepared by:	Head Teacher -Reviewed by DHT- October 2024
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Introduction

This Policy aims to identify how Barley Fields Primary School will continue to work with families, in the best interests of our children, after parents separate.

Schools have a legal duty to work in partnership with families and to involve all those with parental responsibility in their child's education (*see Appendix A - Guidance on Parental Responsibility*). This obligation on schools continues even when family circumstances change, for example, relationships between parents break down. It is generally in the best interest of children if parents and schools can work together.

As a school we will support separated parents and look for ways to continue to involve them equally in their child's education and ensure they receive information about their child if this is an issue. Where possible we can share the following with non-residential parents who request it:

- Newsletters/letters – all sent via Marvellous Me App
- Information about upcoming events provided via Marvellous Me and on school website.
- Appointments for consultation evenings at appropriate times.
- Additional copies of interim and end of year reports

All information may be sent via the child, Marvellous Me or Email. If parents request additional copies of information these may be sent by post to non-residential parents (parents must supply the school office with stamped addressed envelopes for this purpose).

Parents of children joining the school meet with the Head Teacher and are asked to bring their child's birth certificate. This ensures children are joining the correct year group and also helps the school ascertain who has parental responsibility.

Children's welfare and safety are paramount and, where there are issues over access to children, the parent with whom the child resides should contact the school immediately. Where there is a court restraining order in place, the school will put in place measures to ensure the child is not released to a named individual.

Where a separated parent has parental responsibility and there is no court order in place, the school is required to allow the child to be released to them; however, the Head Teacher is able to use her discretion and would seek clarification if it was felt there was a child protection issue.

The welfare of the child is at the heart of all we do, and the Head teacher and Governors maintain the right to discontinue any of the above if it is deemed to be significantly against the child's best interests. Court orders may also alter the position the school adopts.

This policy should be read in conjunction with following policies:

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Equality (Prince Regent Street Trust Policy replaces school Equality Policy from autumn 2024)

Working with Separated Parents - Appendix A

Guidance on Parental Responsibility

To help us to look after your children whilst they are in our care, we are required to ask you to provide certain information, such as name of parents, address, contact details etc.

We are also required to ask who has parental responsibility for your child. This is important because it allows us to be sure who has the right to make decisions about your child's education and medical treatment. However, we are aware that this is a very specific legal term and many of you may be unaware of how it is applied. Listed below is an explanation of who has parental responsibility so that you can provide us with accurate information.

- All mothers automatically have parental responsibility.
- If a child's parents were married at the time of the birth, both parents automatically have parental responsibility.
- For children born from the 1st December 2003 where the father's name is on the birth certificate, the father and mother will both have parental responsibility.
- In all other cases, fathers are required to officially obtain parental responsibility.
- Parental responsibility cannot be lost, except by legal adoption, although it does not guarantee contact.

(If you would like further guidance, there is clear information on the government website <https://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities/who-has-parental-responsibility>)

Request for Additional Parental Information

At Barley Fields Primary School we are committed to working with families and understand the importance of continuing the relationship between school and parents who do not live with their child.

Please complete the form below and return to the school office indicating how you would like to be kept informed about your child's education.



Name of parent:

Relationship:

Name of child/children:

Home Address:

Telephone number:

Email Address:

Please tick the best way to send information to you:

- Marvellous Me
- via your child
- by email
- by post (please note you must supply the school with stamped addressed envelopes for this purpose)

Please tick the information you would like to receive:

- Newsletters
- School Calendar of events
- Additional copies of all school letters appropriate to age of child
- Additional appointment for consultation evenings
- Additional copies of end of year reports/interim reports.