



## Policy for Separated Parents 2023-4

Written by	S Caplan July 2023
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# Policy for Separated Parents

## **Introduction**

This Policy aims to show how staff at Broughton Jewish Primary School will continue to work with families, in the best interests of 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.

## **Delivery**

Below we have listed the ways in which we will work with separated/absent parents to continue to involve them in their child's education.

- Weekly school newsletter available on the website with dates of upcoming events.
- Appointments offered for parents' evenings at appropriate times.
- Additional copies of end of year reports provided either via the child, in the post, or electronically.
- Text messages to parents
- Additional copies of letters provided either via the child, in the post, or electronically.

Parents of children joining the school meet with the Headteacher 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. It would be expected that if parents are separated/ separating, that they will inform the school of the situation, especially when rotas etc are being prepared and information is required (*see Appendix B*).

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 Order in place, the school will abide by the details in the Order.

Where a separated parent has parental responsibility and there is no Court Order in place, the school is required to allow the child home with either parent, according to known

rotas. However the Headteacher is able to use their discretion and would seek clarification if it was felt there was a child protection issue.

### **Disruption of contact**

We urge parents not to collect their child(ren) early from school as a means of disrupting/sabotaging contact with the separated parent as this can have a huge impact on the emotional well-being of the child.

School should NOT be expected to police the days that particular parents have contact, however, if there is a pattern of children being removed early for alleged appointments, medical evidence will be requested.

### **Working with separated parents - Appendix A**

#### **Guidance on Parental Responsibility**

In order 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 the 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. This leaflet aims to provide you with an explanation of who has parental responsibility so that you are able to 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.

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>

### **Working with separated parents - Appendix B**

At BJPS 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 contact the School Office explaining how you would like to be kept informed about your child's education.