

Working Together When Families Change: Our Approach to Supporting Children with Separated Parents

At [insert school name], our focus is and will always be the well-being of the child. We understand that family separation can be difficult for everyone involved, especially children, and our aim is to support all children in a fair, balanced and compassionate way – and that includes working respectfully with both parents.

How We Support Children

- We will offer consistent care and understanding to help children feel secure during any changes at home.
- Staff will be sensitive to their emotional needs and be available to listen and respond appropriately.
- We will keep school routines stable and predictable, which is often helpful for children.

Our Approach With Parents

- We treat all parents and carers with parental responsibility equally, regardless of who the child lives with most of the time or who usually collects them (unless a court order states otherwise).
- We will make sure all parents and carers with parental responsibility are included in school communications.
- All parents and carers with parental responsibility have the right to be informed about their child's progress, behaviour, and any concerns. They also have the right to be involved and volunteer for school trips and extracurricular activities (unless a court order states otherwise).
- We encourage both parents to communicate with each other about school meetings (like parent evenings) and attend together where

possible. However, we're happy to arrange separate meetings if needed.

- We will not take sides in any family dispute. Our role is to remain neutral and focused on the best interests of the child.
- We will handle information sensitively and only share information with staff who need to know.
- We will provide a consistent point of contact at school to help reduce confusion and ensure clear communication.

What We Ask From Parents

- Please ensure that we have up-to-date contact details for both parents.
- Please keep us informed of any changes to living arrangements or family circumstances that may affect your child.
- Please let us know if there are any court orders in place that affect parental responsibility, communication, or collection from school – and provide a sealed or certified copy. Please also comply with any orders in place and check whether court permission is needed to share.
- Please avoid using the school as a channel for disputes. We are here to support your child, not to mediate between parents.
- Please work with us to maintain consistency and stability for your child between home and school.

We are committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment for all families. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss anything in confidence, please contact the school office or speak to a member of the leadership team.