



Overview of Separated Parents Policy.

The full policy can be found in the Community and Complaints Policy.

Date reviewed: April 2022

Next review by: April 2023

Person Responsible: Chief Executive Office

- This policy takes into account the government’s explanation of [Parental rights and responsibilities](#) and the Department for Education’s (DfE) guidance [Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility](#). Government guidance outlines [what is parental responsibility](#) and who can obtain it.
- At the 5 Dimensions Trust (5D Trust), we aim to maintain contact with both parents in the best interests of their child(ren).
- The definition of a “parent” for School purposes is much wider than for any other situation. Section 576 of The Education Act 1996 defines a parent as:
 - ❖ all biological parents, whether they are married or not
 - ❖ includes any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative
 - ❖ any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person.
- The information provided to the School when the child was enrolled detailing who has parental responsibility for the child will be presumed to be correct unless a Court order or original birth certificate proving otherwise is provided to the School.
- Our sole wish across the [5D Trust](#), is to promote the best interests of the child, working in partnership with all parents and/or those with parental responsibility.
- The 5D Trust hopes that parents and all those with parental responsibility will support our Schools in working together for the benefit of their children.
- We ask parents to inform the School whenever something outside School – such as a change in family circumstances – occurs so that we can sensitively support the child in School
- On being admitted to the School, and unless notified to the contrary, the School will release children to either or both parents and/or those with parental responsibility and/or those with care of the child. The child(ren) may be able to leave school independently, permission will be sought during the School enrolment process.
- Bulletins, newsletters and general updates are sent via parent mail to all parents and/or those who have parental responsibility for whom we have up-to-date contact details.
- Whenever requested, we will offer separate parents’ evening appointments for separated, divorced or estranged parents who have parental responsibility.
- Any person who is known to the School to have parental responsibility for a child has the right to access progress reports for their child through Go4Schools.
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