

Parental Responsibility – Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

We have been advised that as childcare providers we need to know about the Parental Responsibility (PR) of the children in our care.

Parental Responsibility is defined in The Children Act 1989 as: “All the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to a child and his property”

Parental Responsibility is only automatic to both parents if they are married and divorce does not nullify it.

There are other rules and regulations to consider – the details are as follows:

Parental responsibility is automatic to both parents when married
Divorce does not nullify parental responsibility
Parental responsibility for a child can only be withdrawn by a court order

Unmarried fathers

If a father is not married to the mother of their child, parental responsibility is not automatic. A father has parental responsibility if:

- Both parents registered the birth together (from December 2003)
- A Parental Responsibility Agreement has been arranged with the mother’s consent, certified by the Court
- A Parental Responsibility Order has been obtained from the Court
- A residence order has been obtained
- The father marries the child’s mother

An unmarried father of a child whose birth was registered before 1st December 2003 can re-register the birth with the mother in order to obtain parental responsibility.

If a person obtains a residence order in respect of a child then they will automatically obtain PR for that child. Therefore, a stepfather or other family relative who has a residence order will also have PR.

We also recognise that home situations can differ from family to family, e.g. there may be circumstances whereby contact is lost between child and a parent/carer. If we talk about “Daddy” to a child who has never seen his/her Daddy or the parents have recently separated, this could prove distressing for the child and we would need to talk with care and consideration.

The Beanstalk Montessori Nursery School

If you feel there is information that would enable us to provide greater care for your child's happiness and well-being, please either write it down on the following form or have a talk with me. Please be assured we have a strict Confidentiality Policy which will be adhered to.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to the Principle or other member of staff and we will do our best to assist.