



*Together we can make a Difference*

## **Policy for Separated Parents**

**Name of school: Bexton Primary School**

**Date of review: Spring 2021**

**New review date: Spring 2024**

**Committee: Full Governors**

### **Rationale**

Research and experience have shown that separated parents can become particularly estranged, especially during the initial stages of the split. This is often traumatic for those children concerned and can have an effect on their learning. This policy is an attempt to minimise this impact and clarify to all parties what is expected from separated parents and what can be expected from Bexton Primary School and its staff.

The Governing Body recognise that while the parents of some pupils may be divorced or estranged, both have a right to be informed of and involved in their child's educational process.

The information provided to the school when the child was enrolled detailing whether both parents have 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.

At Bexton Primary we wish to promote the best interests of the child, working in partnership with both parents, unless directed by a court order. In the event that the school is not informed of such action, neither parent will have rights superior to the other.

- It is the responsibility of the parents to inform school when there is a change in the families' circumstances. We need to be kept up to date with contact details, arrangements for collecting children and emergencies.
- Newsletters can be sent to both parents via parent mail. Newsletters will contain all the main events within school, including productions, sports days, parent's evenings, class trips, etc. Most communications are sent electronically sent via parent mail. If communications are sent via paper, we expect parents to communicate these messages to each other as and when appropriate. It is a parent's responsibility to sign up for parent mail.

- We will hold one parents evening appointment per child, where both parents are welcome. We would expect parents to communicate with each other regarding these arrangements.
- We expect that parents should liaise and communicate directly with each other in matters such as the ordering of school photographs; tickets for performances and other instances. The school will not deal individually with these requests in view of the significantly increased workload that they represent.

## **Progress reports and Pupil records**

Both parents have the right to receive progress reports and review pupil records of their children. If the parents are separated or divorced, progress reports will be sent to the parent with whom the child resides with the expectation that he/she will share the report with the other parent.

The school will send copies of the progress reports to the non-custodial parent only if that parent submits a written request.

In the event that the parents are unable to agree with one another on decisions regarding their child's educational programme, including but not limited to placement, participation in extracurricular activities, and consent to evaluation and services, the school will arrange a meeting with both parents to attempt to resolve the situation and if it cannot be resolved may refer the matter to the relevant department of the Local Authority.

If one parent seeks to remove the child from school, and the parent with whom the child ordinarily resides, has not consented the following steps should be followed:-

The Head Teacher or Deputy Head will meet with the parent seeking to remove the child and, in his/her presence, telephone the parent with whom the child ordinarily resides and explain the request. If the parent with whom the child ordinarily resides agrees, the child will be released and the records will reflect that the permission was granted orally. In the event that the parent, with whom the child ordinarily resides cannot be reached, the Head Teacher or staff member dealing with the issue may make a decision based upon all relevant information available to him/her. The Head Teacher or staff member may have to refuse permission if consent cannot be obtained.

In extreme circumstances if there is a belief that a possible abduction of the child may occur or if the parent is disruptive, the police should be notified immediately.

- Both parents can have equal access to all school information via our parent mail system, or alternatively please request in writing additional copies of communications to be posted.
- All parents are recommended to regularly use our website. It contains all our back dated newsletters and has a range of information and links.
- We will maintain our open door policy with both parents and the class teacher will be available to discuss any issues by phone or meeting.