



## ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS C. E. (FOUNDATION) PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL

Respect. Resilience. Responsibility. Confidence. Co-operation. Compassion.

9 October 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

### Parental Responsibility (PR)

Now we have settled into our new school year we thought it would be a good time to remind families about Parental Responsibility and how this impacts school.

We appreciate Parental Responsibility can be a very delicate area for some families. Everyone who is a parent, as defined under education law (whether they are the resident parent or not) has a right to participate in decisions about a child's education and receive information about a child.

All personal correspondence is sent to all those with parental responsibility as stipulated in the Data Collection form.

On our Data Collection form, we ask for four priority contacts. Anybody with parental responsibility **must** be included. For safeguarding reasons at least one of the four priority contacts **must not** live with the child. If one of those with parental responsibility is unable to collect in an emergency i.e. because they do not live in close proximity to school, then this person should be listed as priority four.

### Who has Parental Responsibility (PR)?

Parental responsibility means someone who has all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority that a parent has in relation to a child (therefore includes someone who is the appointed legal guardian). Under education law a parent includes:

- A mother automatically has parental responsibility for her child from birth.
- A father usually has parental responsibility if he's either – married to the child's mother or listed on the birth certificate.
- Partners of the same sex/gender will both have parental responsibility if they were civil partners at the time of the treatment (e.g. donor insemination or fertility treatment).

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### Authorised restrictions

All parents should be treated equally unless there is an authorised restriction on parental responsibility. Authorised restrictions on parental responsibility generally would involve a court order, which school need to have seen evidence of and be kept up to date of any changes.

There are also other kinds of prohibitive orders specific to the family situations; again we should see proof of these specific details. Sometimes external agencies, such as the police, contact school to update us on such restrictions.

We continue to urge parents to work and communicate together regarding their children's education, especially attending parents evening together (unless for example, there is an exceptional reason such as an authorised restriction in place).

If you would like further clarification regarding parental responsibility or if you wish to speak to myself or Mrs Westby regarding any sensitivities surrounding this matter, please do let us know.

We absolutely want to support families wherever we can.

Yours faithfully

*Mrs Berry*

Head Teacher