



Barn Croft Primary School
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Dear Parents & Carers

Parental Rights and Responsibilities

Schools have a legal duty to work in partnership with families and to involve all those with parental responsibility in their child's education. This obligation on schools continues even when family circumstances change; for example, relationships between parents break down. It is generally in the best interests of children if parents and schools can work together.

Under the education law as set out by the Department for Education in the Education Act 1996, the school is obliged to consider 'parental responsibility' as that defined under education law which extends to all persons, including natural (biological) parents, and extending to any person notified to us by the legal parent at the time of admission who has parental responsibility for the child, such as step-parents, guardians or relatives, and also that of any person who has care of the child.

If you would like further guidance, there is clear information on the government website
<https://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities>

In order to help us to look after your children whilst they are in our care, we are required to ask you to provide certain information, such as name of parents, address, contact details etc. We will ask see the original full birth certificate for children joining our school to confirm parental responsibility, and we are also required to ask who has Parental Responsibility for your child. This is important because it allows us to be sure who has the right to make decisions about your child's education and medical treatment.

Our duty towards our pupils includes notifying their parents of certain information. Below we have listed the ways in which we may work with absent parents to continue to involve them in their child's education:

- weekly newsletter sent electronically or by post to non-residential parent.
- appointments offered for parent consultation evenings at appropriate times where feasible.
- additional copies of end of year reports provided, either via the child, in the post, or electronically.

If you would like further guidance, there is clear information on the government website
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/489901/Parental Responsibility Advice for School January 2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/489901/Parental_Responsibility_Advice_for_School_January_2016.pdf)

The welfare of the child is at the heart of all we do and the above guidance will be followed unless the school is made aware of any Court Orders in place. **Parents are advised that the School is unable to refuse directive from a parent unless legal documentation is presented to confirm the arrangement.** However, we will maintain the right to make decisions against the above if it is deemed to be significantly against the child's best interests.

We hope we may have your continued support and understanding in this sensitive issue.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Tracey Griffiths
Head Teacher