



GOODYERS END PRIMARY SCHOOL

WORKING WITH SEPARATED PARENTS POLICY

Adopted by the Governing Body:

Signed:

Chair of Governors

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Headteacher

Date: Autumn 2019

Date of next review: Summer 2022

The review of this policy will be as and when required in response to national requirements and in light of continuous school-based monitoring and evaluation data.

based on good practice model available via the Internet

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This policy has links with the following policies:

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
Equal Opportunities Policy

Introduction

This Policy aims to show how staff at Goodyers End Primary School will continue to work with families, in the best interests of children, after parents separate.

Aims

We will provide a happy, positive, creative learning environment for all children and staff.

We will provide a safe supportive environment where children and adults feel confident to challenge themselves.

We will provide an inclusive education where all children are valued for their individuality.

We aim to encourage all children to be independent learners and to take responsibility for their learning in order for them to achieve their full potential.

We expect all members of the school family to treat everyone with care, courtesy and respect.

We see education as a partnership between parents/carers and school and will work to promote this view.

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

Delivery

Below we have listed the ways in which we will work with absent parents, at their request, to continue to involve them in their child's education.

- Fortnightly newsletter sent electronically or by post to non-residential parent
- Timely information about upcoming events provided.
- Appointments offered for parents' evenings at appropriate times (where this is not feasible, written reports of parent consultations provided).
- Individual Education Plans (as appropriate) and Assessment Reports.
- Additional copies of end of year reports provided either via the child, in the post, or electronically.

As part of the Induction Pack, when children start school, all parents will receive a copy of this policy.

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Parents of children joining the school meet with are asked to bring in their child's birth certificate. This ensures children are joining the correct year group and also helps the school ascertain who has Parental Responsibility.

Separated parents are required to inform the school and to return a form (*Appendix B*) indicating ways in which they would like to be kept informed.

Children's welfare and safety are paramount and, where there are issues over access to children, the parent with whom the child resides should contact the school immediately. Where there is a court restraining order in place, the school will put in place measures to ensure the child is not released to a named individual.

Where a separated parent has parental responsibility and there is no court order in place, the school has no power to refuse collection from school; however the Headteacher will act in the best interests of the child and seek clarification if it was felt there was a child protection issue.

The welfare of the child is at the heart of all we do and the Headteacher and Governors maintain the right to discontinue any of the above if it is deemed to be significantly against the child's best interests. Court orders may also alter the position the school adopts.

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Working with Separated Parents

Guidance on Parental Responsibility

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 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. However, we are aware that this is a very specific legal term and many of you may be unaware of how it is applied. This leaflet aims to provide you with an explanation of who has parental responsibility so that you are able to provide us with accurate information.

All mothers automatically have Parental Responsibility.

If a child's parents were married at the time of the birth, both parents automatically have Parental Responsibility.

For children born from the 1 December 2003 where the father's name is on the birth certificate, the father and mother will both have Parental Responsibility.

In all other cases, fathers are required to officially obtain Parental Responsibility.

Parental Responsibility cannot be lost, except by legal adoption, although it does not guarantee contact.

(If you would like further guidance, there is clear information on the government website www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/ParentsRights/DG_4002954)

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Please return (for separated parents only who wish to receive information on their child)

At Goodyers End Primary School we are committed to working with families and understand the importance of continuing the relationship between school and parents who do not live with their child.

Please complete the form below and return to the school office indicating how you would like to be kept informed about your child's education.

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| Name of parent: | |
| Parental responsibility confirmed | YES / NO |
| Name of child/children: | |
| Address: | |
| Telephone number/s: | |
| Email: | |
| Please tick the best way to send information to you: | via your child <input type="checkbox"/> by email <input type="checkbox"/> by post <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Please tick the information you would like to receive: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fortnightly newsletter | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely information about upcoming events (i.e. class assemblies, fayres, craft sessions) | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointments offered for parents' evenings at appropriate times (where this is not feasible written reports of parent consultations provided). | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Education Plans and Assessment Reports | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional copies of end of year reports | |

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