



## 32. Separated Parents Policy

Research and experience have shown that separated parents can work well together in the best interests of their children and can together play a role in their children's education.

However, some parents become estranged, and do not work together or in the best interests of their children. This can be very traumatic for any children concerned; therefore, the aim **MUST** always be to resolve any conflicts as soon as possible. It can become difficult for the setting when parents argue; we must stress the importance of all parties working together, without the setting becoming entangled in any disputes.

### Communication

It is the responsibility of the parents to inform the setting when there is a change in family circumstances. Our setting needs to be kept up to date with contact details, arrangements for collecting children and emergencies. We encourage parents to tell us at an early stage if there is a change in family circumstances.

If the child is subject to a joint Child Arrangements Order the Preschool cannot prevent the other parent collecting the child or children but we will endeavour to reach an agreement and this may mean keeping the child or children safe whilst we try and reach such an agreement.

We would expect parents to communicate with each other any kind of arrangement that may have an impact on the child.

### Working together

St. Peter's preschool will always work with both parents equally to achieve the best possible outcome for their child. We will maintain an open-door policy with all parents, this means that all parents are welcome at the setting to discuss any issues or concerns they may have in relation to their child or if requesting a progress update. Newsletters & general school updates will be sent to all parents via e-mail, membership to our family Facebook page is open to all parents.

### Disputes

Parents will be encouraged to resolve any issues around estrangement, contact and access to information without involving the Preschool directly. Issues of estrangement are a civil/private law matter and our setting cannot be involved in providing mediation, helping an estranged parent to communicate with their child or children, or using the preschool premises for purposes of contact.

In cases where there is continued conflict and this cannot be resolved, we will advise the aggrieved parent to pursue the matter through the Family Court.



St Peter's Pre-School Policies and Procedures  
November 2023

Parent responsibility

Parental responsibility means the **legal rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority a parent has for a child and the child's property**. A person who has parental responsibility for a child has the right to make decisions about their child's care and upbringing. The term 'Parental Responsibility' attempts to focus on the parent's duties towards their child rather than the parent's rights over their child.

A parent as defined in Education law has the right to receive progress reports of their children. If parents are separated or divorced, and the setting only holds one address, reports will be sent to that address. The expectation is that the parent will share the report or information with the other parent.

Court Orders

Every parent is welcome at St. Peter's preschool and encouraged to take an active interest in their child's development, this includes if a parent would like to volunteer time at the setting. Any parent may offer to volunteer their time, acceptance is dependent on the supervisor. Please note that if there is a **Specific Issue Order** from the family court you may be declined.

If there is a Court Order restricting contact or it is in contravention of any access agreement, the child or children will not be released to the said parent.

We recognise that a Court Order can restrict a parent in having contact/access to information and we may be bound by this. In this situation we will consult with the Local Authority or our solicitors to obtain advice as this may constitute a safeguarding concern.

Complaints procedure

Should there be any disagreement between this setting and the parent the setting may advise the parent to use the complaints process, our complaints policy can be viewed online or ask a member of staff for a hard copy. Please see a full list of our policies at [www.stpetersprechool.org.uk](http://www.stpetersprechool.org.uk)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Pre-school held on ..... (Date):

Signed on behalf of the Pre-school: ..... (Chairperson