



Parental Responsibility

The Children Act 1989 requires schools to be informed of all adults who have parental responsibility for a child and to keep that information up to date.

A person who has responsibility for a child has the right to make decisions about their care and upbringing.

Who has parental responsibility?

1. **Mothers** automatically have parental responsibility for their child
2. **Married fathers** automatically have parental responsibility for their children (married at time of the child's birth or after)
3. **Unmarried fathers** whose child was born on or after 1 December 2003 and the father is named on the birth certificate will automatically have parental responsibility. An unmarried father who does not have parental responsibility can however subsequently acquire parental responsibility by various legal means
4. **People other than a child's natural parents** can acquire parental responsibility through:
 - a. being granted a child arrangement order
 - b. being appointed a guardian
 - c. being named in an emergency protection order (although parental responsibility in such a case is limited to taking reasonable steps to safeguard or promote the child's welfare)
 - d. adopting a child
5. **Civil partners.** Same sex partners will both have parental responsibility if they were civil partners at the time of the treatment. For non-civil partners, the second parent can acquire parental responsibility by various legal means

Please note that step-fathers, step-mothers and grandparents do not automatically have parental responsibility.

School also needs to be aware if there are any court orders in relation to your child. If this is the case please would you let school have a copy of the court order.

If you have any queries in relation to this or if any circumstances change, please contact Mrs Simpson at school.

Further information can be found at this link:

- <https://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities>