# Policy on Parental Responsibility

It is a legal welfare requirement that we know who has Parental Responsibility (PR) of each child in our care. In order for Monique’s to know who has PR for your child, we will need to see a copy of his/her birth certificate. In the event that any other person has PR for your child, we will also need to see a copy of the court order specifying this.

Before a child starts at the nursery we ask this question in the contract we send out, along with a letter explaining why we need to know and asking for a birth certificate (see letter below).

Monique’s need to know who has Parental Responsibility for each child to ensure that proper authority is given when we need parental permission, such as for outings. It will also make sure that anyone with Parental Responsibility, regardless of whether they live with their child OR NOT, can be provided with any reports and given an opportunity to be involved in the child’s care and education. Persons who have Parental Responsibility automatically are:

Mothers always have Parental Responsibility; fathers also have Parental Responsibility for a child if the father is married to the mother at the time of the child’s birth. This continues after any divorce/separation/remarriage even if the child lives apart from them.

For children born after 1st December 2003, unmarried fathers have Parental Responsibility where the mother and father register the birth of the child together i.e. if the name of the father is on the birth certificate.

There may be situations when other people also have Parental Responsibility for your child. For example, where the court orders that the child shall reside with a named person, that person gains Parental Responsibility. This could apply to grandparents or aunts and uncles. Adoptive parents of an adopted child also have Parental Responsibility for them. In these circumstances there will be an order from the court specifying who has Parental Responsibility.

If your child is in the care of the Local Authority under an order from the court, then the Local Authority will also have PR for them. Because of this, we will need to know the name of your child’s social worker.

Monique’s is required to keep on the admission register details for each child of every parent, or person with Parental Responsibility, details of the person(s) with whom the child lives, and at least one telephone number where one of those persons can be contacted in the case of an emergency.

Parents do not lose their Parental Responsibility nor can it be “handed over” to a new partner. The only circumstance when a parent no longer has PR is when an Adoption Order is made by the court. We have a legal responsibility to involve anyone who has PR in your child’s care and education, regardless of whether this is your wish. The only circumstance when this responsibility varies is if a court order is in place specifying that no information on your child should be given to that person. There may also be exceptional circumstances when the police or Children’s Social services tell us that a particular individual poses a risk, therefore should not have access to information.

## Court Orders

Monique’s also need to be aware of any legal orders relating to your child. For example, there may be a Residence Order in place which states that your child must live with you, or there may be a Contact Order in place which specifies when your child’s other parent sees them. If your child is the subject of any of these orders, we will need to see the original order to make sure we have all relevant information.

As already stated, there may be occasions when a court order is made preventing a person from having access to any information on your child, or contact with them. If this is the case, we must see a copy of the order and a solicitor’s letter will not be sufficient.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that parents recognise that the nursery will not be seen as a place that can be used as part of any dispute between parents. A parent who is not listed as having Parental Responsibility will not be allowed into the nursery for any purpose in relation to that child.