



St James' Preschool

Parental Responsibility

We have been advised that as childcare providers we need to know about the Parental Responsibility (PR) of the children in our care. Parental Responsibility is defined in The Children Act 1989 as: "All the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to a child and his property"

Parental Responsibility is only automatic to both parents if they are married and divorce does not nullify it. There are other rules and regulations to consider – the details are as follows:

- Parental responsibility is automatic to both parents when married
- Divorce does not nullify parental responsibility
- Parental responsibility for a child can only be withdrawn by a court order

Unmarried fathers

If a father is not married to the mother of their child, parental responsibility is not automatic. A father has parental responsibility if:

- Both parents registered the birth together (from December 2003)
- A Parental Responsibility Agreement has been arranged with the mother's consent, certified by the Court
- A Parental Responsibility Order has been obtained from the Court
- A residence order has been obtained
- The father marries the child's mother

An unmarried father of a child whose birth was registered before 1st December 2003 can re-register the birth with the mother in order to obtain parental responsibility.

If a person obtains a residence order in respect of a child then they will automatically obtain PR for that child. Therefore, a stepfather or other family relative who has a residence order will also have PR.

We request the names, addresses and relationship of those people with Parental Responsibility within our Registration form. We recognise the right of all people with Parental Responsibility to be included in the care of the child whilst at preschool.

Manager of the Preschool	Jean Smith
Signed & Dated by the Manager of the Preschool	<i>J Smith 1/1/2016</i>
Chair of the Preschool Management Committee	Grainne Mac Manus
Signed & Dated by the Chair of the Management Committee	<i>G MacManus 1/1/2016</i>
Frequency of policy review	Annual
Date next review due	1st January, 2017