

Cranford Parental Responsibility Policy

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Parental responsibility for a child can only be withdrawn by a court order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 also recognise that home situations can differ from family to family, e.g. there may be circumstances whereby contact is lost between child and a parent/carer.

Registration Documentation in Nursery

Documentation for every child in the setting should clearly state WHO has parental responsibility for the child and who is the resident parent for the child. That parent should inform us of any change to consent in collecting the child.

If both parents are together at the time of registering the child for the setting, the setting will assume that both parents will be listed on the child's records as being authorized to collect the child from the setting.

The nursery will endeavour to ensure that both parents receive information from the setting about the setting and about their child's progress.

If a non-resident parent turns up to collect a child unannounced, the following procedure will be followed:

The child's records will be checked to see if the parent is on the list of persons authorised to collect the child.

If the parent is not on the list authorised to collect the child, the parent will be asked for identification if unknown to the setting.

Once the identity of the parent has been established (or if already known) the child will be kept in the setting until the resident parent has been contacted and permission established for the unannounced parent to leave with the child.

If the resident parent does not give permission for the child to leave with the unannounced parent, the resident parent will be asked to collect the child themselves or arrange for an authorized person to collect the child.

If the unannounced parent is not willing to leave the setting without the child, the staff will contact the Police for further assistance.

The resident parent may be asked to resolve the situation before returning the child to the setting.

Cranford does not accept that members of staff should be subjected to verbal abuse or physical violence of any nature. We will encourage Police intervention and offer support to staff that have suffered mental and/or physical trauma. Any assault on a member of staff will be treated extremely seriously and may result in criminal charges being brought.