

# Cherrytree Nursery School Ltd

## Parental Responsibility

Cherrytree Nursery School Ltd need to know who has 'Parental Responsibility' (PR) for each child in our care. This is to ensure that proper authority is given when the setting needs parental permission. It will also make sure that anyone with parental responsibility regardless of whether they live with their child, 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:

- Mother
- Father, if he 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 the father.
- For children born after 1<sup>st</sup> December 2003, unmarried fathers have parental responsibility where the mother and father register the birth of the child together ie 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 uncles and aunts. 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.

Cherrytree Nursery School is required to keep on the admission register, details of every parent, or person with parental responsibility, details of the people with whom the child lives, and at least one telephone number where one of those people 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 circumstances 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.

In order for Cherrytree Nursery School to know who has PR for your child, we will need to see a copy of his/her full 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.

### **Court Orders**

Cherrytree Nursery School Ltd 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.