



## EXPLANATORY NOTES RELATING TO THE STUDENT ADMISSION FORM

### **Parental Responsibility?**

In the case of a parent who does not live at the student's permanent address but has parental responsibility\*, they are entitled to receive copies of correspondence and school reports relating to the child unless there is a court order or other legal reason preventing this.

### **Who has Parental Responsibility?**

A mother automatically has parental responsibility for her child from birth.

A father usually has parental responsibility if he is either:

- Married to the child's mother
- Listed on the birth certificate (after a certain date, depending on which part of the UK the child was born in)

### **Step Parents**

Under the Education Act a step parent living in the same house as the student is considered to be a parent and have the same rights to information, attend parent evenings etc. and the school will not treat them any differently. However, unless the student has been adopted by the step parent or there is a legal agreement a step parent will not hold parental responsibility for the student.

### **Births registered in England and Wales**

If the parents of a child are married when the child is born, or if they have jointly adopted a child, both have parental responsibility.

They both keep parental responsibility if they later divorce.

### **Unmarried parents**

An unmarried father can get parental responsibility for his child in 1 of 3 ways:

- Jointly registering the birth of the child with the mother (from December 2003)
- Getting a parental responsibility agreement with the mother
- Getting a parental responsibility order from a court.

### **Births registered in Scotland**

A father has parental responsibility if he was married to the mother when the child is conceived, or marries her at any point afterwards.

An unmarried father has parental responsibility if he is named on the child's birth certificate (from 4<sup>th</sup> may 2006)

### **Births registered in Northern Ireland**

A father has parental responsibility if he was married to the mother at the time of the child's birth. If a father marries the mother after the child's birth, he has parental responsibility if he lives in Northern Ireland at the time of the marriage.

An unmarried father has parental responsibility if he was named, or becomes named, on the child's birth certificate (from 15<sup>th</sup> April 2002).

**Births registered outside the UK**

If a child is born overseas and comes to live in the UK, parental responsibility depends on the UK country they are now living in.

**Same sex parents****Civil partners**

Same sex partners will both have parental responsibility if they were civil partners at the time of the treatment, e.g. donor insemination or fertility treatment.

**Non-civil partners**

For same sex partners who are not civil partners, the second parent can get parental responsibility by either:

- Applying for parental responsibility if a parental agreement was made
- Becoming a civil partner of the other parent and making a parental responsibility agreement or jointly registering the birth

**Looked After and Post Looked After Children**

A Looked After child is looked after by a local authority if he or she has been provided with accommodation for a continuous period of more than 24 hours.

Post looked after children are sometimes referred to as previously looked after children. More commonly they would be recognised in the following categories

- Adoption
- Special Guardianship Order
- Child Arrangements Order, previously known as a Residency Order

The majority of these children will have previously been in the care of the local authority, and would then join their new family situation under a new Court Order. Children who are returned, or reunified, with their birth parents are not in this category of Post or previously Looked After.

**Students from Service families**

If your child currently lives with a parent / step-parent who is currently serving or has previously served in the British Armed Forces, we may be able to apply for the SPP (Service Pupil Premium) on their behalf. This is used to coordinate and provide additional pastoral support for students from Service families when required. Please attach a copy of your Military Identification (ID) Card to the admissions form.