Parental Consent Policy Statement

Each person with parental responsibility for a child is entitled to:

- Receive information about their child
- Request to see their child's educational record
- Participate in statutory activities (like parent governor elections)
- Be informed about meetings involving their child (such as parents' evenings or an exclusions hearing)
- Be asked to give consent (for things like school trips or sharing photos of the child on the school's website)

This means that one parent cannot prevent others with parental responsibility from doing any of the things listed above, and school does not need the consent of one parent to allow another parent to do any of these things.

For example, a biological parent cannot request that School does not share information about a child's education with a step-parent the child lives with. That is because they both count as 'parents' under education law.

Getting consent

For activities and outings, the DfE's guidance on parental responsibility says that School should seek consent from the **resident parent** unless:

- The activity is likely to have a long-term and significant impact on the child, or
- The non-resident parent has asked you to seek their consent in all such cases

The resident parent is the parent the child lives with the majority of the time. If a child lives with each parent for an equal amount of time, both parents would count as resident parents.

What to do if parents do not agree on whether to give consent

Where parents do not both agree to give consent, school will treat it as if consent **has not** been given.

Please see the model letter below that can be used to communicate this situation to both parents.

Note: It is not the job of School to try to get parents to agree, and school will not get involved in any disputes between parents about consent.

If parents try to involve School in this kind of dispute, School will advise them to seek independent legal advice, or use a mediator.