TRINITY ACADEMY

Separated Parents Policy

Reviewed: October 2021
Principal approved: February 2019
Next Review: July 2022

Aim

The aim of the separated parent policy is to support families affected by separation.

The policy sets out the expectations of parents and the Academy regarding communication and information sharing between parents and the Academy.

The Academy recognises that, while the parents of some students may be divorced or separated, both have a right to be informed of, and involved in, their child's education. However, we expect that parents, whatever the nature of their separation, will do all they can to communicate with each other and share information from and for the school, for the benefit of their child. It is assumed that the parent with whom the child principally resides will keep the other parent informed.

A school does not have the power to act on the request of one parent to restrict another and entitlement to information cannot be restricted without a specific court order.

Definition of parent

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 states that 'parent', for the purposes of education law, considers 'parent' to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative
- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person

(www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility last updated 3 September 2018)

School communications

Information about events such as parents' evenings, school photographs, educational visits are published on the Academy's website and on the **MCAS (MyChildatSchool) app**.

General letters are published on the Academy's website; personal letters are sent to the parent/s at the student's home address or email address, depending on the context.

Text messages and emails are sent to the first parent contact, as nominated by the parent completing the student's data information sheet.

Progress reports are shared on the MCAS app. Parents with PR are sent an invitation by email to use the app.

The Academy's responsibilities

The Academy will ask for the names and addresses of all parents when a student is registered. Parents should inform the Academy of any changes to contact details, so that details are kept up to date.

Where there is a court order in place, parents must share the information with the Academy. The Academy will ensure that a copy of the court order is kept on the student's records.

Information regarding parents' evenings is published on the website. The Academy holds one parents' evening appointment per student, where both parents are welcome. The school expects parents to communicate with each other regarding these arrangements.

Virtual parents' evenings
Since January 2021 we have been using SchoolCloud to host parents' evenings virtually. Before each parents' evening a letter is placed on the website and a link to it sent by text to the first contact. The letter has details of how to book appointments and a link to a video of how to use SchoolCloud.

The Academy will ensure that names and addresses of all parents are forwarded to any school to which the student moves.

Parents' responsibilities

Parents must inform the Academy of any court orders in place. The Academy is only obliged to comply with an order if it is properly notified and has received a copy for its files.

Parents are required to provide contact details of parents and those with parental responsibility; we need to be kept up to date with contact details.
Parents are responsible for informing the Academy in writing when there is a change to contact details.

Parents are responsible for informing the Academy in writing when there is a change in family circumstances.

Parents are expected to liaise and communicate directly with each other in matters such as the ordering of school photographs, tickets for performances and other instances. The Academy will not deal individually with these requests in view of the significantly increased workload they represent.