



Separated Family Policy

Parental responsibility

While the law does not define in detail what parental responsibility is, the following list sets out some of the key features of someone holding parental responsibility. These include:

- Providing a home for the child
- Having contact with and living with the child
- Protecting and maintaining the child
- Disciplining the child
- Choosing and providing for the child's education
- Determining the religion of the child
- Agreeing to the child's medical treatment
- Naming the child and agreeing to any change of the child's name
- Accompanying the child outside the UK and agreeing to the child's emigration, should the issue arise
- Being responsible for the child's property
- Appointing a guardian for the child, if necessary
- Allowing confidential information about the child to be disclosed.

If the parents of a child are married to each other at the time of the birth, or if they have jointly adopted a child, then they both have parental responsibility. Parents do not lose parental responsibility if they divorce, and this applies to both the resident and the non-resident parent.

This is not automatically the case for unmarried parents. According to current law, a mother always has parental responsibility for her child. However, a father has this responsibility only if he is married to the mother when the child is born or has acquired legal responsibility for his child through one of these three routes:

- By jointly registering the birth of the child with the mother (From 1 December 2003)
- By a parental responsibility agreement with the mother.
- By a parental responsibility order, made by a court.

During the membership process we collect details about both parents. We request these details on the child membership form. If a parent does not have parental responsibility, or has a court order in place to prevent this, we must have a copy of this documentation for the child's records.

If a child is registered by one parent of a separated family, we request disclosure of all relevant details relating to the other parent.

We will:

Ensure the child's welfare is paramount at all times they are in the Club

- Comply with any details of a court order where applicable to the child's attendance at the Club where we have seen a copy/have a copy attached to the child's file
- Invite both parents to events, including social events where both hold parental responsibility
- Ensure any incident or accident within the Club relating to the child is reported to the person collecting the child
- Ensure that all matters known by the staff pertaining to the family and the parent's separation remain confidential
- Ensure that no member of staff takes sides regarding the separation and treats both parents equally and with due respect
- Not restrict access to any parent with parental responsibility unless a formal court order is in place. We respectfully ask that parents do not put us in this position.
- We will seek legal advice in the case of any disputes regarding the care or collection of the child and sharing of information, where required, to ensure we meet all legal requirements.

We ask parents to:

- Provide us with all information relating to parental responsibilities, court orders and injunctions
- Update information that changes any of the above as soon as practicably possible
- Work with us to ensure continuity of care and support for your child
- Not involve any staff in any family disputes, unless this directly impacts on the care we provide for the child
- Talk to the Club Manager and/or Head Coach away from the child when this relates to family separation in order to avoid the child becoming upset. This can be arranged as a more formal meeting or as an informal chat
- Not ask the Club to take sides in any dispute. We will only take the side of your child and this will require us to be neutral at all times.