



Separated Parents Policy
Short Version

Moreland Primary and Children's Centre Separated Parents Policy

Purpose and Aims

Evidence shows that after separation¹ children do best when those around them cooperate, provide stability, and avoid conflict. We understand that this can be difficult and can direct you to further support services should we find this helpful. Our priority is always the needs of the child, and our aim is to work with all parties to promote positive family involvement. At Moreland Primary and Children's Centre we recognise that while some parents may be divorced or separated, both have a right to be informed of, and involved in, their child's educational progress.

This policy clarifies what is expected from separated parents and carers, the school and its staff. The guidance in this policy will apply unless Moreland Primary and Children's Centre is made aware of any Court Orders in place and has a copy of the documentation as confirmation. Parents may need to check on who has official parental responsibility and provide evidence of this. We will ask for sight of a child's full birth certificate on joining the school to confirm parental responsibility.

School Responsibility

Moreland Primary and Children's Centre will:

- Recognise the sensitivity of situations where there are parental disputes around the care of and access to children and will maintain confidentiality, requested by parents, as far as possible
- Give access to formal documentation, such as reports, to both parents. Newsletters are also available to both parents via email on request.
- Send routine Moreland Primary and Children's Centre information, such as school trips and homework, to the parent with whom the child lives. In the case of shared residency, this will be sent to the parent with whom the child lives for the majority of the time.
- The School will accept appointments at Parents' Evenings for both parents separately.
- Not act as a line of communication between parents who are in conflict regarding their child's education.

Parental Responsibility

Parents are expected to:

- Keep the Moreland Primary and Children's Centre up to date with any changes in family circumstances
- Ensure that the Moreland Primary and Children's Centre has the correct emergency contact details
- Keep the school informed, in writing, of any disputes they have with each other regarding the access to and collection of children.
- Liaise and communicate directly with each other in matters such as attending school/nursery review meetings, e.g., parent's evenings, ordering of school photographs, tickets for performances and other instances.
- Ensure children are organised in terms of having PE kits, reading books, homework etc. in the right location to bring into school/nursery

¹ Within this policy separated refers to parents who have previously lived together as well as those who have co-parented separately from a child's birth)

Other Relevant Policies

This policy is linked to our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which sets out our duty of care to safeguard all children.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed every two years by the Headteacher/Manager/Governing Body. The scheduled review date for this policy is May 2023.

Useful Contacts:

1. Islington Family Information Service for information about a range of services to support children, young people and families:

<http://directory.islington.gov.uk/kb5/islington/directory/service.page?id=BsNZ36XvrPY>

2. For specific services which may offer advice and support around family:

http://directory.islington.gov.uk/kb5/islington/directory/results.page?familychannelnew=6_5