



In the School's dealings with separated families we aim to be fair to both parents whilst maintaining a neutral stance. If a parent with whom a child does not live with but has retained parental responsibility, or who lives with their child for part of the week, and requests information about his/her child/children, then he/she has a right to receive that information and to be given regular updates and opportunities to engage in conversation relating to his/her child's development and progress.

Our policy is that we will issue a copy of the following information to parents who have requested dual mail (second copies):

- Annual Reports
- Snapshots
- Suspension letters
- Reintegration letters
- Attendance letters
- Behaviour letters
- Academic Tutoring invitations
- Options Information
- Any other personalised letters relating to the child's education / behaviour

All other correspondence, which may be more generic, will be notified by a label in the child's planner and a copy will be available on the school website www.ballakermeen.com, so we recommend that all parents check his/her child's planner and the website regularly. Some general newsletters are released by email, so parents should ensure we have up to date contact details so they can be included in email releases.

Parental responsibility

All mothers, whether married or unmarried, automatically have parental responsibility for any child born to them. However, prior to 1 November 2013 an unmarried father did not automatically gain parental responsibility for a child, even if they were registered as the father on the child's birth certificate. The Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act 2013 made an amendment to the Children and Young Persons Act 2001 that from 1st November 2013 an unmarried father would automatically gain parental responsibility by jointly registering the child's birth with the child's mother.

Unmarried parents:

- Mothers automatically have parental responsibility for any child born to them, unless it has been removed by a court.
- Unmarried fathers did not automatically gain parental responsibility even if he was registered as the child's father. Parental responsibility could have been acquired with a parental responsibility agreement or court order.

Disclaimer - This is provided as a guide only, to parents on their rights to communicate with the school and be informed of their child's progress, and is not legal advice. The school cannot support or intervene in the event of any legal dispute between parents.