



## Policy for dual mail to contacts with parental responsibility

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 correspondence is issued by email via the school's In Touch system. General newsletters and generic letters will be available on the school website [www.bhs.sch.im](http://www.bhs.sch.im), so we recommend that all parents check the website regularly. Parents should ensure we have up to date contact details, so they do not miss important information. Paper copies will not be issued.

### **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 1 November 2013 an unmarried father would automatically gain parental responsibility by jointly registering the child's birth with the child's mother.

#### **For a child born on or after 1 November 2013:**

1. All mothers, whether married or unmarried, automatically acquire parental responsibility for any child born to them
2. Fathers, whether married or unmarried, automatically acquire parental responsibility by jointly registering the child's birth with the child's mother and the father's name appears on the birth certificate

#### **For a child born before the 1 November 2013:**

1. All mothers, whether married or unmarried, automatically acquire parental responsibility for any child born to them
2. Unmarried fathers did not automatically gain parental responsibility, even if they were registered as the child's father. Parental responsibility could have been acquired with a parental responsibility agreement or court order.



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3. If a child's parents are married, both parents have parental responsibility
4. If a child's parents are divorced but were either married at the time of the child's birth or subsequently married following the child's birth, both parents have parental responsibility, unless this has been amended by a court order

**If a court has made an order regarding parental responsibility or ordering restrictions of the release of information regarding a child, this must be submitted to the school.**

**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.