



**Manadon Vale
Primary School**

**Manadon Vale Primary School
St. Peter's Road
Plymouth
PL5 3DL**



**Headteacher: Mrs H. Gilbride BEd (Hons) NPQH
01752 705345 admin@mvps.org.uk**

Dear Parents and Carers,

With increased separation and divorce rates, we would like to make parents and carers aware of our separated parents policy statement that we adhere to.

The school recognises that, while the parents of some pupils may be divorced or separated, both have a right to be informed of, and involved in, their child's education. The admitting parent has the responsibility to ensure that we have up to date information for the other parent.

As it stands, we follow the guidelines set out by the government (Parental rights and responsibilities – GOV.UK) If an estranged parent who has equal parental responsibility is proactive in their child's learning and wishes to contribute choices with their education, we have a duty to support them with this, offering impartial advice whilst remaining neutral. This entitlement cannot be restricted without a specific court order. We will request a copy of the child's birth certificate if there are any disputes regarding parental responsibility.

The school does not have the power to act simply on the request of one parent to restrict another. We also have a duty for this support to be confidential. The school is under no obligation to inform or share the details of this support with the other parent unless there is a court order, legal notification or safeguarding concerns.

If there is no court order or legal notification or safeguarding concerns, we cannot prevent a parent with PR from coming to the school or collecting their child. However, the caveat for this is that staff will only allow a child to go with a known adult.

Our priority is to always act in the best interest of the child, regardless of conflict between the parents. Disagreements between parents must be resolved between the parents and cannot be resolved by the school or local authority.

We appreciate that every situation is different, and we are happy to clarify or discuss any queries.

Although the school and a parent may not agree all the time, a partnership of mutual respect and courtesy is vital.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hayley Gilbride

Headteacher