

Bizzie Lizzies Nursery and Pre School.

Nursery Ofsted URN- EY392303
Preschool Ofsted URN – 2549120
RP number - 906327

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Parental Disputes

Parental Responsibility and Conflict Policy

This policy outlines how **Bizzie Lizzies** manages situations where parental conflict arises due to family breakdown, while ensuring compliance with legal responsibilities and safeguarding children.

Parental Rights

Individuals with **parental responsibility** have equal rights regarding their child, including:

- Receiving information such as pupil reports.
- Being asked to give consent for nursery activities.
- Being informed about meetings involving their child's education and care at Bizzie Lizzies.
 - If a parent requests a meeting be kept confidential, this will be considered on a **case-by-case basis** depending on the nature of the meeting.
- Attendance at meetings where **safeguarding or welfare concerns** have been raised. These meetings will involve **two staff members**, led by the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** or **Deputy DSL**.

Bizzie Lizzies treats all parents **equally**, unless a **court order** limits a parent's ability to make decisions, participate in nursery life, or receive information about their child.

Conflicts Between Parents

- The nursery will attempt to **resolve issues amicably** but will avoid becoming involved in parental disputes.
- Bizzie Lizzies may decline requests if they **conflict with legal obligations** or the nursery's duty to safeguard children.
- **Example:** If one parent requests the nursery prevent another parent from collecting the child or receiving information without a valid court order, the request will be **declined**. The nursery may, however, notify the other parent if collection occurs unexpectedly, in line with safeguarding procedures.
- If conflicts cannot be resolved, parents are advised to seek resolution through the **family courts**.

Having parental responsibility **does not allow a parent to obstruct the nursery** from carrying out its legal duties.

Rights of Non-Resident Parents

Where no court order restricts involvement:

- If the non-resident parent's whereabouts are unknown, the nursery will inform the resident parent that the other parent is entitled to participate in their child's education and request the information be shared.
- If the resident parent refuses to share information or contact details, Bizzie Lizzies cannot take further action, though the resident parent may be unaware of the non-resident parent's location.
- If the non-resident parent contacts the nursery, Bizzie Lizzies will provide information **after verifying parental status**.
- Bizzie Lizzies is **not required** to obtain consent from the resident parent, a solicitor's letter, or a court order to provide statutory educational information to any parent entitled to it.

Obtaining Parental Consent

- Consent for outings, administration of prescribed medication, emergency first aid, and other activities will be sought from the **resident parent**.
- Where it is necessary or requested, **consent will be sought from all parents**. If all parents do not agree, consent is considered **not given**, protecting the nursery from legal liability.
- Bizzie Lizzies avoids involvement in parental disputes and may advise parents to obtain a **court order** to clarify decision-making authority.

Changing a Child's Surname

- A change of surname is a **private law matter** and must be resolved between parents.
- Bizzie Lizzies **will not change a child's surname** without written consent from all parents or those with parental responsibility.
- Consent will be verified **independently of the requesting parent**.

Administration and Record-Keeping

In accordance with **Regulation 5(1)(c) of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013**:

- Names and addresses of all parents must be included in the **admission register**.
- At least **one telephone number per resident parent** must be recorded for emergencies.

Bizzie Lizzies will:

- Collect contact details, including names and addresses of all parents, during registration.
- Record **any relevant court orders** in the child's records.
- Protect parental data to avoid inadvertent sharing.

Each parent may have an **individual login** to their child's Family profile, allowing private communication while accessing the same information about the child.

- Parent meetings will be offered **separately if required**, ensuring both parents receive the same information about the child's progress and achievements.
- This approach safeguards parents and children, particularly in cases involving **domestic abuse risk**.