

# NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## PARENTAL RIGHTS POLICY

We recognise that everyone who is a parent/carer has a right to participate in decisions about their child's education. This includes step-parents who have parental rights by virtue of having care along with the mother and father, and foster carers.

We recognise that individuals who have full parental responsibility for or care of a child have the same rights as natural parents, for example:

- To receive information from the school (e.g. copies of Records of Progress, Learning Indicator reviews and Attendance Records);
- To participate in activities (e.g. vote in elections for Parent Governors);
- To be asked to give consent (e.g. for activities additional to the normal school provision);
- To be told about meetings involving the child (e.g. a Governors' meeting on the child's exclusion).
- Providing details of external support agencies should these be required.

### **Our Commitment**

We at NSG are committed to treating all parents/carers/social workers equally, unless there is a court order limiting an individual's exercise of parental responsibility.

On a day to day basis, the school's main contact is likely to be the parent/carer with whom the child lives on school days.

### **We will achieve this by:**

- sending formal communications, where requested, including Records of Progress to each individual with parental responsibility;
- ensuring that all school events e.g. parent teacher consultations are advertised on our school website;
- responding appropriately to requests for additional information;
- keeping records updated according to the information provided by the parent(s)/carers

Day to day communications will be directed to the parent/carer where the child stays during the school week. This includes letters obtaining consent where it is normally sufficient to obtain consent from the resident parent unless the other parent has specifically requested that he or she be approached for consent in all cases.

Please note that the school will endeavour to try and meet both sets of parents/carers on parents' evenings if different times are requested.

### **Changing circumstances**

At NSG we recognise that when family breakdown happens within any family, it is not easy for any party involved.

We are committed to providing a stable, supportive school environment that holds the student's well-being and learning at the heart of our thinking. When we are aware of particular family circumstances such as these we can provide support including, where required, a commitment to:

- ensuring that relevant staff are aware and recognise the possible needs due to a student's changing circumstances.
- providing appropriate support for the student by a member (or members) of the pastoral team including the tutor, Head of Year, Head of Learning Community, Student Support Worker or School Counsellor.

NSG will remain professional and impartial at all times.

What we ask of parents:

- To agree to the day to day contact information required by the school and keep this updated through communications with Student Services.
- To recognise the school's commitment to provide relevant information and how we will achieve this for all parties.
- To ensure that contact with school recognises the school's impartiality.
- To keep us updated when the child is experiencing difficulties which may impact on learning.
- To support the articles within the Home School Agreement