Executive Headteacher
Mrs H Frost-Briggs
Head of School
Mr J de Rijk

Dear Parent/Carer,

At The Ripley Academy, we want to make sure that every student is supported to be able to achieve their potential. We recognise that children may live with, or be cared for by, a range of family members or trusted adults for many different reasons.

We are writing to ask parents and carers to inform the school if a child in their care is living under, or is subject to, any of the care arrangements outlined below:

Informal Kinship Care: A child is cared for by a close relative, such as a grandparent, aunt, uncle or sibling, through a private family arrangement, without a court order or formal local authority fostering arrangement.

Kinship Foster Care: A child is cared for by a relative or family friend who has been formally assessed and approved as a foster carer by the local authority.

Special Guardianship Order (SGO): A court order that gives a special guardian parental responsibility for a child and provides a long-term, secure care arrangement, usually until the child reaches 18.

Child Arrangements Order (CAO – Live With): A court order that determines who a child lives with.

Private Fostering: An arrangement where a child under 16 (or under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not a parent, a person with parental responsibility or a close relative, and the arrangement lasts, or is expected to last, for 28 days or more.

Testamentary Guardianship: An arrangement in which a parent appoints a guardian in writing, for example in a will, to care for their child following their death.

We understand that family circumstances can be personal and sometimes sensitive. Sharing this information helps us to understand your child's circumstances and provide the right support at the right time.

Knowing about a child's care arrangements can help us to:

- Provide emotional support: Recognise when a child may be experiencing changes, uncertainty, loss or worry, and offer appropriate pastoral support.
- Support learning and progress: Understand any circumstances that may affect a child's concentration, attendance, engagement or achievement, and put suitable support in place where needed.

enquiries@ripleyacademy.org
Peasehill, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JQ
www.ripleyacademy.org
01773 746 334

- Identify additional support: Help families access relevant school-based support and, where appropriate, signpost them to external services or specialist advice.

- Communicate with the right people: Ensure that important school information is shared appropriately with the adults who are legally entitled to receive it, and that we understand who has parental responsibility and any relevant court orders.

- Plan for important events and transitions: Provide appropriate support during examinations, changes of school, family transitions or other significant events.

- Keep children safe: Ensure that our safeguarding records and arrangements are accurate and that we understand any relevant legal or care arrangements.

If your child is living under, or is subject to, any of the arrangements listed above, you can contact your child's Head of Year, email enquiries@ripleyacademy.org or call the school on (01773) 746334. You do not need to share more personal information than is necessary for us to understand the arrangement and consider any support your child may need.

If you are unsure whether your family's circumstances fall into one of these categories, please get in touch and we will be happy to discuss this with you sensitively and confidentially.

Any information shared will be handled sensitively, recorded and shared only as appropriate and in accordance with our safeguarding and data protection responsibilities.

We recognise the important role that relatives, guardians and other trusted adults play in providing children with stability, care and security. By working in partnership with families, we can help ensure that every child at The Ripley Academy receives the understanding, encouragement and support they need to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Kingsland
Associate Assistant Headteacher