WHO HAS PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY? - as detailed on Education Authority Website 19/4/23

* Every mother automatically has parental responsibility for her child, as does every father who is married to the mother at the time of the birth.
* A father of a child acquires parental responsibility if his name has been put on the child’s birth certificate (applies to children born after 15 April 2002).
* Both parents can enter a parental responsibility agreement.
* The Court can make a Parental Responsibility Order in favour of the father.
* Parental responsibility may also be acquired under the provisions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008.
* Step-parents may acquire Parental Responsibility by way of Court Order.
* If the court makes an order for the child to reside with someone who does not already hold parental responsibility, that person will obtain parental responsibility by virtue of that order as long as the residence order remains in force.
* Social Services acquire Parental Responsibility on the issuing of a Care Order or Interim Care Order. Where a child is made subject to a Care Order, the Local Authority/Trust is given Parental Responsibility and will share it with current Parental Responsibility holders, for example, the child’s parents.  However the Trust can exercise Parental Responsibility above that of the current Parental Responsibility holders insofar as necessary to safeguard the welfare of a child.
* An adoptive parent when an adoption order is made.
* An individual can acquire Parental Responsibility on the foot of an appointment as a guardian by the court in certain circumstances such as the death of a parent.
* There are situations where a parent can lose Parental Responsibility by way of court order, for example where step-parents hold an order for Parental Responsibility for a child who is subsequently adopted.