



Custody

Rationale

Schools may be confronted with issues relating to custody of students. The school will manage custody related issues with sensitivity and in accordance with the law.

Aims

To develop and implement clear and responsible processes for managing custody related issues at a school level.

To articulate the school's processes relating to the management of custody issues to parents.

Implementation

- Parents or guardians are required to complete and sign accurate enrolment forms for children for whom they have custody
- Enrolments must be accompanied by Birth Certificates or similar that prove a student's name and birth date
- The school will only enrol a child under the name provided on a Birth Certificate or more recent legally recognised document
- Any custody issues are to be declared and supported by legal documentation – which will be photocopied and retained on the student's confidential file which will be updated when circumstances change
- The Principal will be responsible for ensuring that the school complies with all Family Court Orders relating to custody

- The school will assume a default position that both natural parents have equal access to enrolled students unless current court orders dictate otherwise
- Both natural parents will have access to school reports, newsletters, parent interviews, and their children at school unless court orders dictate otherwise
- Parents or guardians who claim custody restrictions but fail to provide documentation will not have their requests met until such time as supporting documentation is provided
- People who are in breach of court orders will be directed immediately to the Principal
- The police will be contacted immediately if people refuse to comply with the Principal's lawful instructions or to obey court orders
- Any breaches of custody restrictions will be reported by the Principal to the parent who normally looks after the child
- In cases involving custody restrictions, it is incumbent upon the custodial parent to provide written instructions should any change to daily routines be required.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the school's three-year review cycle.

Last ratified by School Council in May 2022