



Court Orders

Purpose

To develop and implement clear and responsible processes for managing family custody and student access issues at a school level, and to clearly articulate the College's processes relating to the management of custody issues and family disputes to parents.

Rationale

Schools are often confronted with parents disputing custody of, or access to students who are their children. While such issues are often emotionally charged, the school will manage family disputes sensitively, impartially and in accordance with the law.

Policy

- 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 proves a student's name and birth date.
- The College will only enrol a child under the name provided on a Birth Certificate or more recent legally recognised document that details a name change, or proof that the student is included in a witness protection program or similar.
- Any custody or family issues are to be declared, and supported by court issued Orders – which will be photocopied and retained on the student's individual file.
- The principal will be responsible for ensuring that the College cooperates with all Family Court Orders, Magistrate Court Orders or similar legal documents.
- The College will assume a default position that both birth parents have equal access to enrolled students unless current Orders or legal documents dictate otherwise.
- Both birth parents will have access to College reports, newsletters, parent interviews, and their children at College unless Orders or similar legal documents dictate otherwise.
- Parents or guardians who claim custody restrictions but fail to provide documentation will not have their requests met until such time as Orders are provided.
- People who have restricted access to students, and whose presence at College or requests for information etc are in breach of Orders or similar legal documents will be directed immediately to the principal.
- The police will be contacted immediately if people refuse to comply with the principal's lawful instructions to obey Orders or similar whilst at the College.
- Breaches of Orders will be reported by a principal class officer to the parent or guardian who legally looks after the child during the time of the breach.

Review cycle and evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed as part of the College's four year review cycle